

Chess Trivia for 2023 by Bill Wall

Atahualpa (1497-1533) was the last sovereign emperor of the Inca Empire. In 1532, the Spaniards sacked the Inca army camp and imprisoned Atahualpa. While in prison, he was taught chess by the Spaniards and became very good at it. Atahualpa advised Hernando de Soto in one game of chess that helped defeat one of the Spanish friars named Riquelme. Popular tradition in Peru says that Atahualpa would not have been condemned to death if he remained untutored in chess. Atahualpa was sentenced to death by 13 votes for and 11 against. It was Riquelme's vote that broke the tie that called for the death sentence. The Peruvian people say that Atahualpa paid with his life for the checkmate that Riquelme suffered because of his advice. [source: Betanzos, *Relacion de Inca Atahualpa de don Francisco Pizarro*, 1535]

In 1622, chess expert Gioacchino Greco (1600-1634) was robbed of all his money (5,000 crowns or about \$2,000) that he won in Paris from playing chess while on his way to London. He was also nearly murdered. He died of disease in the West Indies.

In September 1733, in the *Craftsman* newspaper, there appeared a paper with the title of "A Short Essay on the Game of Chess." In reply, Rev. Lewis Rou, pastor of the Huguenot Church in New York, wrote Critical Remarks upon the letter to the Craftsman, dated December 13, 1734. The manuscript, now lost, is the oldest reference to chess in the New World. (source: *New York Times*, Aug 2, 1902, p. 8)

In 1804, the earliest known correspondence game was between a Prussian army lieutenant colonel named Freidrich Wilhelm von Mauvillon (1774-1851) stationed at Breda, Netherlands, and one of his friends stationed at The Hague (Den Haag), Netherlands. The two cities were about 40 miles apart. Mauvillon's chess games (winning two and drawing one) were published in his chess book in 1827.

In 1840, Louis-Charles Mahe de La Bourdonnais (1795-1840), strongest player of the 19th century, died penniless in London, having been forced to sell all his possessions, including his clothes and chess books and sets, to satisfy creditors. He inherited some money but squandered his fortune on ill-advised land deals

On November 23-25, 1844, a telegraph match was played between the chess clubs of Baltimore and Washington, DC. The two cities were the first to be linked by an American telegraph. Seven games were played by telegraph. The games were played to test the accuracy of the telegraph as well as for the players own amusement. A numerical notation was used (the White pieces were on numbers 57 through 64). The 686 moves which made up the match were transmitted without a single mistake or interruption. The first chess game was played by Mr. Greene in Baltimore against Dr. Jones in Washington. Mr. Greene won.

On April 9, 1845, Howard Staunton and Captain Hugh A. Kennedy (1809-1878) traveled to Gosport, on the west side of Portsmouth Harbor, southwest of London to play a team of players in London (Vauxhall terminus) by telegraph. The two teams of players were 88 miles apart. The telegraph ran along the tracks of the South Western Railway. Staunton and Kennedy lost their first game to the team of Henry Thomas Buckle, Captain William Evans, George Perigal, William Tuckett, and George Walker (Staunton only says the first game was unfinished). According to Staunton, the first game was to test the powers of the telegraph with the signals that would be used in the next day's game. Staunton wrote, "the first day's play is a sort of rehearsal merely to familiarize the men to our chess notation." Getting the moves back and forth involved a ten minute delay. The game lasted 9 hours and was transmitted in Gosport by Mr. Hoffmeister. For Staunton and Kennedy, the moves were made in their hotel, and a messenger took it to the telegraph offices a few blocks away. During the first game, several mistakes occurred in transmission of the moves. One case had a bishop on the wrong square for several moves in the game.

On March 1, 1845, the first US chess column appeared in *The Spirit of the Times* in New York by Charles Henry Stanley (1819-1901). Stanley later became an alcoholic who spent his last 20 years in institutions on War's Island and in the Bronx.

In 1846, Charles Stanley published the first U.S. book on a chess match, *Thirty-One Games at Chess, Comprising the Whole Number of Games Played in a Match Between Mr. Eugene Rousseau, of New Orleans, and Mr. C.H. Stanley, Secretary of the New York Chess Club*. It is the rarest of US chess books.

In 1847, General Romulo Diaz de la Vega was captured during the Mexican-American war and spent his time in the Castle of San Juan de Ulua prison playing chess. He later became the 23rd President of Mexico, but his government lasted only 22 days. (source: *Eastern Carolina Republican*, May 26, 1847).

John Quincy Adams (1767-1848) (president from 1825 to 1829) was a chess player who collected chess sets. One of his chess sets (Barleycorn design) is displayed at the Smithsonian Museum of American History. In 1817, after a seven-week sea voyage across the Atlantic Ocean, he wrote that a game of chess surpassed all other resources for killing time at sea. He often played chess with a passenger from Boston named A. G. Otis. (source: "The Lives of the Presidents, James Madison, James Monroe and John Quincy Adams," by William Stoddard, 1887, p. 270). In 1829, Adams purchased a \$23 ivory chess set for his home in the White House. His political enemies (Andrew Jackson's democratic supporters) accused him of using public funds to buy the chess set and a \$61 billiard table that appeared on the White House inventory list (it was Adams own money that purchased the chess set and the billiard table was never bought at all) to buy and install gaming furniture and gambling devices in the White House. It was part of a theme (negative campaigning) that may have cost Adams the election in 1828. (source: Senate, 1789-1989, vol 1: Addressed on the History of the United States, p. 96.) John Quincy Adams said that chess was the best way to occupy time during long sea voyages. When he was in Berlin, Germany, he found an apartment near the Brandenburg Gate, and played chess with the landlord. When he stayed in New York, he stayed at his sister's house, Nabby Smith, and they played chess with her and his nephew, Billy Smith. John Quincy Adams and his James Madison, his Secretary of State, played chess at parties or when his wife wasn't with him. In her diary, Mrs. Adams wrote, "When he mingles at parties in Washington, he often leaves my side to escape into a library to play chess..." (source: *The Secret Diary of Mrs. John Quincy Adams* by Beatrice Cayzer, 2015, p. 84) John Quincy Adams also played chess with his sons, George, John II, and Charles. (source: *John Quincy Adams: A Public Life, A private Life* by Paul Nagel). He may have learned chess from his father, John Adams, or Benjamin Franklin, who he stayed with while in France. Henry Clay (1777-1852) was a chess player. He was a US Senator from Kentucky and US Secretary of State under John Quincy Adams.

In 1848, the Revolution of 1848 forced Karl Marx (1818-1883) out of Belgium where he was planning a revolutionary action. He was forced to flee back in

France, where he spent much of the time playing chess in the Paris cafes. In 1867, when Marx was waiting for proofs of *Das Kapital* to be returned, he spent an evening at a party hosted by chess master Gustav Neumann (1838-1881). At the party, Marx defeated a player named Meyer and the score sheet was preserved. (source: *Tartajubow on Chess*, April 28, 2020)

In January 1849, Henry Thomas Buckle (1821-1862) won the Ries Divan (London) knockout chess contest. It was the first modern chess tournament. It was the first time the word "tournament" applied to a real chess tournament. Buckle was an eminent historian.

In 1849, chess master Johann Loewenthal (1810-1876) was expelled from Hungary because of his association with the Hungarian government during a revolution. He found his way to America. In 1851, he was living in Cincinnati giving chess lessons at his chess divan, his only source of income. His customers raised enough money for him to travel to the London International Chess Tournament of 1851 and then return back to Cincinnati. However, the tournament proved to be a disaster for him. He got knocked out in the first round by Elijah Williams, losing 2 and winning 1 game. Because of his early loss, he felt too embarrassed to return to the United States to face his backers, and stayed in Europe the rest of his life, settling in London. He later became ill and could no longer financially support himself. A collection was taken up for him. Lord Randolph Churchill and many others contributed to the charity fund.

In 1849, The Jaques Staunton chess-men were first advertised and endorsed by Howard Staunton. The set was made by the company John Jaques of London. The original design was registered to Nathaniel Cook in the Spring of 1849. Earlier patterns were named Lund, Merrifield, Calvert, and St. George. (source: *Illustrated London News*, Sep 29, 1849)

In 1850, Pope Pius IX (1792-1878) amused himself by playing chess with his Cardinals. (source: *Athens Post*, Tennessee, Feb 8, 1850)

In January 1851, Paul Morphy's (1837-1884) first published chess game appeared in *La Regence*, published by Lionel Kieseritsky (1806-1853).

In 1853, the first time a chess game was played using signals at sea between ships.

In 1853, Lionel Adalbert Bagation Kieseritzky (1806-1853), one of the strongest chess players in France, died penniless at a charity hospital for the insane in Paris. He was buried in a pauper's grave. Only one person came to his funeral, a waiter at the Cafe de la Regence. The location of his exact plot has not been found to this day. Kieseritzky is famous for being on the losing side of "The Immortal Game." Kieseritzky was considered a narcissist and he considered himself the "Chess Messiah."

The Mechanics' Institute building in San Francisco houses the oldest chess club in the United States. It was organized in 1854 when San Francisco was a frontier community. The first meeting of the Mechanics' Institute was held on December 11, 1854 and The Institute was incorporated on April 24, 1855 and this is considered its founding date.

In 1854, Paul Morphy took an interest in astronomy. While at Spring Hill College, he was a member of the Philomatic Society (an association of persons who love sciences) and delivered an astronomy lecture on the discovery of Neptune, which occurred in 1846 by astronomer Johann Galle in Berlin.

In June 1855, Charles Henry Stanley, British Vice Consul at the port of New York, was arrested in New York on the charge of violating the neutrality laws by inviting Americans to enlist in the British army and proceeding to the Crimea. At the time, he was considered the US chess champion. (source: *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, July 8, 1855)

On March 28, 1856, the first chess game by telegraph between Liverpool and Manchester was played. After 8 hours of play, the clubs agreed to a draw. (source: *London Times*, March 31, 1856)

On October 6, 1857, the first American Chess Congress started. It was the first true tournament in the New World. Entry fee was \$10. Admission fee for spectators was \$5. The event was held at Descombes rooms, No. 764 Broadway. The winner (Paul Morphy) was considered the United States Chess Champion.

(source: *Louisville Daily Courier*, Aug 19, 1857 and *New York Times*, Sep 19, 1857 and Oct 7, 1857)

In February 1858, the Duke of Brunswick brought legal action against the *Gazette-de-Paris* for censuring his practice of playing chess in his opera box. He sued for 10,000 francs. (source: *McArthur Democrat*, McArthur, Ohio, Feb 18, 1858)

In 1859, a Vicksburg paper said that card playing among steamboat travelers in the West had diminished by one-half within the last year, and its place had been supplied by chess. (source: *Reading Times*, April 19, 1859)

In October 1859, Paul Morphy became the first sports or chess figure to issue a commercial endorsement of a product. He wrote a letter to the American Watch Company, which was used in their advertisements of their watches. Morphy wrote, "Dear Sir: The American Watch Company presented me by the New York Chess Club, has proved to me a most reliable and accurate time-keeper — almost unnecessarily so for ordinary purposes. It is now nearly five months since it came into my possession, and during that period its variation from standard time has been but a trifle more than half a minute. I give you permission to make use of this statement as you may think proper. — Paul Morphy"

In May 1860, Mrs. Lafayette Lee and Mr. U. G. Flowers sat down to play a game of chess in Vicksburg, Mississippi. During the game, Mr. Lee, who was standing behind Mr. Flowers looking on, pulled out a pistol and shot his wife after a quarrel about Mrs. Lee wishing to visit her mother. He then aimed his pistol at Mr. Flowers, but Mr. Flowers pulled out his own pistol and shot Mr. Lee 5 times, killing him. Mrs. Lee was in critical condition, but survived. (source: *Nashville Union*, June 2, 1860)

In 1861, Congressman Alfred Ely (1815-1892) of New York, while witnessing the First Battle of Bull Run, was taken prisoner by the Confederates and imprisoned in Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia. While a prisoner, Paul Morphy came to Richmond and visited him. (source: *New York Times*, Feb 4, 1862)

In 1862, chess player Armand Edward Blackmar (1826-1888), of the Blackmar Gambit and Blackmar-Diemer fame, was arrested by Union General Ben Butler (1818-1893) and imprisoned by Union soldiers in New Orleans for

publishing seditious (Confederate) music, such as the Bonnie Blue Flag (Band of Brothers) and the Dixie War Song.

In June 1864, former Union Captain George H. Mackenzie (1837-1891) was marked as a deserter, was arrested, and was forfeited all pay and allowances. He was released in May, 1865, and moved to New York and started playing chess. By 1867, he was U.S. chess champion.

On April 3, 1865, the Richmond, Virginia Chess Club burned down. It has been visited by Paul Morphy, General Edward Johnson, General John Pegram, and General Micah Jenkins. (source: *Richmond Dispatch*, Dec 15, 1865)

In August 1865, Thomas Bill pleaded guilty to stealing two pairs of boots at the New York Hotel that belonged to Paul Morphy, who had just arrived in New York. Bill was sent to prison. (source: *New York Times*, July 26, 1865)

In 1866, W.R. Henry died. This was the pseudonym of William Henry Russ (born in 1833), an American archivist. He was the first person to collect all chess problems published in America and compiled a manuscript collection. He adopted an 11-year old girl and proposed to her in Brooklyn when she turned 21. When he rejected him, he shot her four times in the head. He left her for dead (she survived), then tried to commit suicide by jumping into the river to drown himself. Unfortunately, the tide was out and not deep enough. He climbed out of the river and shot himself twice in the head. He died 10 days later in a hospital, lacking the will to win. His chess book, published posthumously, was entitled *American Chess Nuts*, published in 1868.

In 1867, Wilhelm Steinitz got in a dispute with Henry Blackburne at a City of London Chess Club game. Blackburne made an insulting remark and Steinitz spat towards Blackburne. Blackburne, who was over 6 feet and 250 pounds, then smashed the diminutive Steinitz in the face with his fist. Steinitz later wrote, "— he struck with his full fist into my eye, which he blackened and might have knocked out. And though he is a powerful man of very nearly twice my size, who might have killed me with a few such strokes, I am proud to say that I had the courage of attempting to spit into his face, and only wish I had succeeded." In June 1867, Steinitz traveled to Paris where he took 3rd place (Ignac Kolisch took first, followed by Winawer). In this 13-player strong event, Steinitz got in an

argument with Blackburne. Steinitz finally spat on Blackburne and Blackburne punched out Steinitz. (source: *International Chess Magazine*, Nov 1889)

In 1867, Emperor Napoleon III (1808-1873) donated a Sevres vase, worth 5,000 francs, to the winner of the Paris International Tournament. The winner was Ignatz Kolisch (1837-1889). Kolisch invested his vase in real estate right after the tournament. He later went into banking and became a millionaire and chess patron himself.

In 1869, the Oxford University Chess Club was founded at the University of Oxford. It is the oldest university chess club in the United Kingdom. One of the founding members was Lord Randolph Churchill.

In 1869, Steinitz tutored chess at Cambridge and one of his students was Winston Churchill's father, Lord Randolph Churchill (1849-1895).

In 1870 the first correspondence chess club, the Caissa Correspondence Club, was founded. The club sponsored correspondence tournaments and matches. It initially had only 12 members, rising to 14 members in 1875. The club lasted four years.

On July 18, 1870, the first mechanical chess clocks were used in a major tournament, Baden-Baden. 20 moves had to be made per hour in this double round-robin event. On August 4, 1870, Adolf Anderssen won at Baden-Baden, ahead of Steinitz and Blackburne. This was the first strong international tournament, which included 10 strong international players. Anderssen won 3,000 francs. (source: New York Times, Sep 2, 1870). In that time, France declared war on Prussia on July 19, 1870. The southern German states, including the Grand Duchy of Baden, took the side of Prussia and its North German allies. The Franco-Prussian War came close to Baden-Baden. During the event Adolf Stern was mobilized as a Bavarian reservist, after four rounds (1 win, 1 draw, 2 losses). The finish of Baden-Baden 1870 marked the end of the beginning of hostilities. The thunder of the artillery could be heard at a distance of 30 km in Baden-Baden. Adolf Stern sent a card from the fields near Sedan on 4 September: "Emperor Napoleon has been mated,"

Colonel Hyacinth R. Agnel (1799-1871) was a chess problemist and chess author. He spent the first 20 years of his life as a mercenary. In 1845, he formed the first chess club at West Point. He was a Professor of Languages (taught French) at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point for 30 years. He was also an artist and did his own engravings for his chess books.

In 1872, Thomas Hardy (1840-1928) wrote *A Pair of Blue Eyes*, which was serialized, then made into a novel in 1873. It was his first novel to bear his name on publication. The book describes the love triangle of Miss Elfride Swancourt, who plays chess, and her two suitors, Stephen Smith (who is just learning chess) and Henry Knight (who also plays chess and beats her).

In 1872, Pierre Charles Fournier de Saint-Amant (1800-1872), a leading French chess master, died after being thrown from his carriage at his chateau near Algiers, Algeria. He served as the secretary to the governor of French Guiana, but was dismissed from that appointment after he protested against the slave trade that still existed in that colony. In 1873, Albert William Ensor (1843-1883) won the first Canadian Chess Championship. In crime, he was unlucky. In 1875, he was arrested in Rochester, New York on the charges of passing counterfeit bills. [source: Democrat and Chronicle (Rochester, NY), Mar 6, 1875, p. 4 and Mar 22, 1875. P. 4] He was later arrested for perjury in another case. He went to Germany and was arrested for gambling. He then fled to France where he was arrested for forgery. He died from cirrhosis of the liver in London.

In 1874, at age 5, Emanuel Lasker (1868-1941) showed that he had mathematical talent and was able to rapidly multiply two-digit numbers at an early age. Emanuel astonished the head of a local school by doing multiplication such as 17×53 or 18×96 in his head. When the doubting teacher, Herr Ludwig, suggested that the child was coached, Emanuel protested and demanded to be asked something more difficult. He was asked another math problem and answered just as promptly, thereby achieving some local fame before he was old enough to go to school (source: Hannak, *The Life of a Chess Master*, 1991, p. 14)

On June 22, 1874, chess master Howard Staunton died in his library chair, London, of a heart attack. He was 64 years old. The Royal Bounty Funds donated 200 British pounds to his widow after his death. He spent his later life writing about William Shakespeare. At the time of his death, he was writing about the

corruptions of Shakespeare's text and working on his last chess book, *Chess: Theory and Practice*, which was published posthumously in 1876.

In 1875, It was reported that Paul Morphy had become insane (source: *Atlanta Constitution*, Nov 21, 1875) and was confined to an asylum (source: *The York Daily*, Nov 29, 1875). The *New Orleans Republican* responded, "Mr. Morphy can be seen on our streets any day, having given up chess-playing for the practice of law." He was never in better health, physically and mentally, than now, and the above news is calculated to surprise him and his friends. (source: *New York Times*, Dec 1, 1875).

In 1876, the first Russian chess magazine, *Schachmatny Listok*, was published by Mikhail Chigorin (1850-1908). He founded a chess club in St. Petersburg and tried to establish a chess association in Russia. This was finally done a few years after his death from diabetes.

In 1877, chess was first played using the telephone. The first documented telephone chess game is from Dr. White and Mr. Treadwell versus A. Douglas, a mile away. (source: *Turf, Field and Farm*, Oct 5, 1877)

In 1877 chess players met at the German café, Cafe Logeling, 49 Bowery Street in lower Manhattan. Mr. C. W. Logeling was a chess enthusiast and eventually built a room in the back of the cafe for chess. On November 24, 1877, it was decided to form a chess club at the Café Logeling Chess Rooms. There was discussion to name it the Metropolitan, Morphy, or Manhattan Chess Club. There were 32 original members.

On December 1, 1877, 37 members showed up for the first regular meeting. The entrance fee was \$1 per person and dues were \$4 per year. The first Manhattan Chess Club Constitution, rules of play, and the regulations for tournaments and matches were written by Thomas Frere (1820-1900). Frere assisted in the formation of the Brooklyn Chess Club in 1856. The first chess book in the Manhattan CC library was *The Chess Openings* by Henry E. Bird, published in London in 1877. On February 1, 2002, the Manhattan Chess Club closed. It existed for 124 years, the second-oldest chess club in the United States (next to the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club in San Francisco). Its last president was Jeff Kossak.

In 1878, the Mephisto automaton, constructed by Charles Godfrey Gumpel (1835-1921), made its first appearance at his home in London. Gumpel first built it in 1876. Unlike the Turk and Ajeeb, it had no hidden operator, Instead Gumpel used remote controlled electromechanical means. It was the first automaton to win a chess tournament when it entered in the Counties Chess Association in London in 1876.

In 1878, the automaton Mephisto, built in 1876, started playing chess in England against all comers. It beat almost every player except when it played a lady. When playing with ladies, it would obtain a winning position and then lose the game, offering to shake hands afterwards. Mephisto was a remotely controlled electromechanical device, mainly operated by chess master Isidor Gunsberg (1854-1930).

In 1878, a subscription was raised by American chess players to send James Mason (1849-1905) to a Paris tournament. Mason failed to win any prize money and was so embarrassed, that he did not return to the United States. The first-place prize at the Paris tournament was a Sevres vase, worth over 5,000 francs. It was won by Johannes Zukertort, given to him by the President of France. Zukertort sold it three days later at a pawn shop for about half the value.

In 1879, the College Chess Club, a women's chess club, was formed. It disbanded after too many marriages (source: *British Chess Magazine* 1981, p. 403)

In January 1880, the 5th American Chess Congress was held in New York. It was a disaster for James Grundy (1855-1919) and Preston Ware (1821-1890) as the two were caught up in a scandal. Ware threw his game to Grundy, hoping for a draw, but lost instead. Ware alleged that Grundy had offered him \$20 (\$400 in today's currency) to play for a draw. Grundy agreed, but when Ware played some weak moves, Grundy changed his mind and played for a win, tying for 1st place. Grundy was forbidden from ever taking part in an American tournament again. Preston Ware never got his \$20 and he was suspended for one year from playing chess in any tournament. Ware didn't need the money but agreed to the shady deal because he wanted his friend, Captain George Mackenzie, to take first place. (source: *Chess Life*, Dec 1985, p. 10)

From 1880 to the end of 1881, Wilhelm Steinitz was invited to Randolph Churchill's mansion to play chess and give him chess lessons. He met Lady Churchill (Jennie) and discussed politics with Lord Randolph. Winston Churchill was 6 years old at the time.

In 1881, an article called "Memory in Chess Playing," appeared in *Scientific American*. It stated that wonderful as are the feats of chess-players who can work out a game or a series of games without seeing the board, there is nothing really remarkable in them. When once mastered, the trick is not only fairly easy of performance, but the fact that the process is purely mental rather facilitates than impedes the action of the mind. To the "blindfold" chess player, there is present a mental picture of the board with the pieces in position. He can change the position of the men as easily as he can think, and after he has mastered the difficulty of fixing the mental picture, it is distinctly before him. As a rule, chess-players are mental-picture-readers, and can at pleasure call up any one of several pictures of boards as they last conceived them. The most difficult feat is to play two or three games simultaneously blindfold, the moves made by their opponents being told them in close sequence and their own moves being directed after all the reports of the proceedings of their opponents have been received. (source: *Scientific American*, Dec 10, 1881, Vol. 45, # 24, p. 378)

In 1881, the first Canadian chess championship was held in Ottawa. The winner was Joseph W. Shaw (1834-1897) of Montreal, who scored 7 out of 8. (source: *Chess Review*, Sep 1935, p. 213)

In 1882, the Toronto Chess Club played the Detroit Chess Club by telegraph. This may be the first telegraph match between the USA and Canada.

In 1882, James Mason (1849-1905) became the first person to lose a game of chess on time. It happened at Vienna where everyone played with a chess timing piece. Mason, in a losing position, overstepped the time limit at moves 30 against Henry Bird and should have lost. But Bird declined not to take the win on time forfeit, feeling confident that he could beat Mason. The game continued and it was Mason that won the game. Bird then protested and ultimately received the point as he was able to find enough witnesses to show that Mason lost on time.

Mason was an alcoholic and lost several chess games while being intoxicated and making drunken disturbances.

On April 26, 1883, the London International Tournament began. It was the first tourney in which double-headed chess clocks were used. Time control was 15 moves in two hours, and if you failed to make the time limit, you forfeited the game. The time piece consisted of two balanced clocks on a seesaw beam so that when one was tilted, it stopped and the other started. The tumbling-clock was manufactured by Fattonini & Sons of Bradford, England.

In 1884, the Scottish Chess Association (SCA), the oldest chess association in the world, was founded. In 2001, the Scottish Chess Association merged with the Scottish Junior Chess Association to become Chess Scotland.

In 1885, Colonel Isaac H. Trabue (1831-1907) held a chess tourney funded by pineapples in Florida. He and his whole family had a passion for chess. Trabue was a lawyer, coal mine operator, Union soldier during the US Civil War, and land developer. His younger brother, William Trabue, was a national chess master. His nephew, Stepehn Trabue, once defeated Capablanca in an exhibition in Tampa. (source: *British Chess Magazine*, 1980, p. 599 and lindseywilliams.org, Nov 30, 1997)

On January 11, 1886 the first game for the official world chess championship began at Cartier's Hall on 5th Avenue in New York. Steinitz wanted the U.S. flag to be placed next to him during the match, even though he still was an Austrian citizen (he became an American citizen almost three years later). Less than 40 people were present at the start of this historical match, despite Steinitz's daughter, Flora, selling programs and photographs to earn a few extra dollars for the family. Steinitz couldn't even afford a winter coat for her daughter. The time control was 30 moves in 2 hours, with a 2 hour dinner break, then 15 moves an hour. A demonstration chess board was first used in this world championship match, run by George Mackenzie.

The *Philadelphia Times* had the following comments on the Zukertort-Steinitz match: After the first game Zukertort complained of want of practice. "Why didn't you practice in London?" he was asked. "I couldn't," fired back Zukertort: "Blackburne is always sick and Mason is always drunk." The accuracy of the

statement as to Mason's chronic condition is questionable. No habitual drunkard could play as he did in the last great tourney. ... - *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, Feb 14, 1886

In 1886, the French actress Sarah Bernhardt (1844-1923), the first international stage star, played chess against the chess automaton Ajeeb. She loved chess and lived at the Hotel Chelsea from 1886 to 1900. Ajeeb was located at the Eden Musee, a block away from her hotel. She also played Ajeeb in 1900 and perhaps many times between 1886 and 1900 (losing every time). When asked how she spent her time on long sea voyages, she said she played chess. (source: "Sarah Bernhardt" by Jules Huret, p. 132, patrickgrenier.net/blog.html, *Chess Life*, Jun 1992, p. 12, and *British Chess Magazine*, 1979, p. 302)

In July 1887, Frederick Viewig, manager of the Eden Musee in New York, was arrested for having violated the Sunday law by exhibiting wax figures, permitting music to be played, and also by allowing Ajeeb, the chess automaton, to play a game of chess. He responded, "I consider it absurd to contend that a playing a game of chess or looking at was figures was a violation of the Sunday law."

Mr. Viewig had to pay \$100 for bail. (source: *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, July 16, 1887)

In May 1888, the Intercollegiate Chess Association was organized. Colleges included were Columbia, Harvard, Princeton, Cornell, and the University of Pennsylvania. (source: *New York Times*, May 25, 1888)

On June 20, 1888, Zukertort died of a stroke while playing chess at Simpson's, a London coffee-house at the age of 45. While playing a chess game with Sylvain Meyer, Zukertort fainted. Instead of calling for medical help, he was taken to the British Chess Club in an unconscious state. They then took him to Charing Cross Hospital where they diagnosed the problem as a cerebral attack. He never regained consciousness, and died at 10 a.m. the next day. The cause of death was cerebral hemorrhage. At the time, Zukertort was also in the middle of a tournament at the British Chess Club and was in 1st place. He was scheduled to play a match with Blackburne on June 23, 1888 and Bird on June 26, 1888. He is buried at Brompton Cemetery in Kensington, England. His grave is A.F. 107 x 18. His grave was rededicated in 2012. The world chess championship was conducted on an informal basis through the remainder of the 19th century and in the first half of the 20th century. If a player thought he was strong enough and he or his

friends had enough money to back the match, he could then challenge the reigning world champion.

On Jan 27, 1889, chess master Frederick Perrin (1815-1889) died in Brooklyn of pneumonia, aged 73. He was Secretary and President of the New York Chess Club. His last words to his physician were: "Doctor, I am puzzled over that last move of mine." He was a professor of languages at Princeton College. (source: *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, Jan 28, 1889)

On Jan 22, 1890, a large fire broke out in New Orleans. It burned down the New Orleans Chess, Checkers, and Whist Club, including its chess library, valued at \$15,000. The chess club had one of the most valuable libraries in the world, including a lot of Paul Morphy memorabilia. Morphy's relics, score sheets, autographs, portraits, and stationary were all destroyed. (source: *New York Times*, Jan 23, 1890)

In 1891, a team match was played in the Manhattan Chess Club between the bald-headed members and the full-haired members. The bald-head members won, scoring 14-11. (source: *Chess Review*, April 1937, p. 89)

In the 1890s, Otto Roething (1865-1915) was a trapeze artist in a German circus. His circus career was cut short by a serious accident when he fell. He then moved to New York and became a chess professional, winning the New York State chess championship in 1903 and the Manhattan Chess Club Championship in 1909.

In 1892, the Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and Columbia (HYPC) were formed. It continued until 1924, when it was dissolved. Soon it was reformed, but without Columbia. Army and Dartmouth filled the vacancy. In 1947, Columbia was readmitted, but no tournament was held after that date. In 1899, the Triangular Chess League (Cornell, Brown, and Pennsylvania) was founded. In 1920, the Intercollegiate Chess League of America was founded. (source: *Chess Life*, Feb 20, 1957, p. 2)

In Feb 1892, Matthew Wilson, a well-known portrait painter, died while playing chess at the Brooklyn Chess Club. He was 77 years old. His portraits included President Arthur and Lincoln. (source: *New York Times*, Feb 24, 1892)

In November 1892, an accidental shooting occurred in William Steinitz's house in Upper Montclair, New Jersey. His previous American secretary, Nathaniel W. Williams, accidentally shot his new German secretary, Ernest Treital, in the house. Treital lost an arm. (source: *Tartajubow on Chess*, Oct 7, 2017)

In the 1890s, Sir Walter Parratt (1841-1924) was able to play a Beethoven Sonata at the same time that he was conducting two games of chess blindfold. Parratt was an English organist and composer. He was a member of the Huddersfield Chess Club and played his blindfold games while playing a selection of tunes on the piano at Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire. He served for a few months as president of the Oxford University Chess Club and for two years was captain of the Oxford Chess Club. (source: *Shinn, Musical Memory and its Cultivation*, 1898, p. 134)

In 1893 and 1894, Alfred Binet (1857-1911) conducted perhaps the first psychological studies into chess. He investigated the cognitive facilities of chess masters who could play blindfold chess. He hypothesized that chess depends upon the phenomenological qualities of visual memory. He found that only chess masters were able to play chess successfully without seeing the board and intermediate players found it impossible to play a game of blindfold chess. Binet found that experience, imagination, and memories of abstract and concrete varieties were required in master chess

In 1893, Emanuel Lasker (1868-1941) was a mathematics lecturer at Tulane University in New Orleans and almost gave up chess for a teaching post. In 1895, he published two mathematical articles in *Nature* magazine. In 1901, he was a mathematics lecturer at Victoria University in Manchester, England. He was awarded a doctorate in mathematics in 1902.

In 1893, president Grover Cleveland (1837-1908) tried to do a good deed by offering a \$500 gold medal to the winner of the 1892 New York Chess Congress. This is the first time in the history of American chess that the game had been honored by the gift of a prize for a tourney from the head of the republic. However, the "Panic of 1893" overtook events and the tournament was cancelled.

In 1894, Charles O. Jackson, who said he was a former President of the Indiana Chess Association, advertised that the Terra Haute Chess Club was hosting a Great

Masters Continental Chess Congress. He sent flyers to chess players encouraging them to send \$25 entrance fee for this major tournament. But it was a scam. He had run fake tournaments in the past. (source: *New York Times*, Jan 15, 1894 and *Tartajubow on Chess*, Sep 12, 2017)

In the September 1, 1894 *New York Times* issue, an article appeared that a Women's Chess Association of America was formed. The article states that in the spring of 1893, a few women met informally and organized the Women's Chess Association of America. In January, 1894 they elected their officers and had 75 members. They mention that the honorary members include English women's champion Mary Rudge (1845-1919) and Irish women's champion Mrs. Thomas Rowland (Frideswide Beechey) (1843-1919). The club, renamed the Women's Chess Club, was incorporated in 1896. The president was Mrs. Eliza Campbell Foot and the vice president was Mrs. Winthrop Parker. (source: *New York Times*, Mar 2, 1896, p. 6)

In 1895 at Hastings, William Steinitz was about to checkmate Curt von Bardeleben. Bardeleben, rather than resigning, got up from his chair and left the room. He didn't come back. Tournament official found him outside the hall pacing angrily. He would not return to the game and 50 minutes later, Bardeleben was forfeited and Steinitz won the game on time.

On March 9, 1895, the Manhattan Chess Club played the British Chess Club of London by cable. Only about 22 moves were played in each of the 10 games after 9 hours. One game was agreed drawn. All the other games were adjudicated as drawn by the new world chess champion, Emanuel Lasker. (source: *New York Times*, March 10, 1895)

In 1896, U.S. chess champion Harry Nelson Pillsbury (1872-1906) resigned from the Manhattan Chess Club because someone stole his umbrella. (source: *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, July 3, 1896)

On March 13, 1896, the first cable chess match between Great Britain and the United States began. It was organized by the Brooklyn Chess Club, and would be the first Anglo-American chess match. The first team match had 8 players per side. Subsequent matches had 10 players per side. Sir George Newnes (1851-1910) was president of the British Chess Club and he provided a \$300 silver cup

that would go to the winning team. Newnes was an editor and publisher of magazines in Britain. He was the first to publish the Sherlock Holmes mystery series, written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. USA won the first match, 4.5 to 3.5

In February 1897, the press falsely reported William Steinitz's death. The headline of the Indianapolis News was *William Steinitz Dead*. A dispatch from Moscow says that William Steinitz died in a private hospital, where he had recently been placed on account of mental disorder. (source: *Indianapolis News*, Feb 22, 1897 and *New York Times*, Feb 22, 1897) The story was retracted several days later after associating chess with brain disease, and that Steinitz was not dead, but hopelessly insane. (source: *New York Times*, Feb 26, 1897)

In 1898, Prince Balaschhoff hired Samuel Rosenthal (1837-1902) to be his chess teacher for 500 francs a month and 1,000 francs with Rosenthal accompanied Prince Balaschhoff when he travelled. After about 6 months, Prince Balaschhoff got rid of Rosenthal. Rosenthal complained that he was owed money and took it to court in Paris. Rosenthal brought an action to recover 15,000 francs of pay according to agreements, 1,000 francs for their last journey, and 25,000 francs indemnity for sudden dismissal, and for loss of profits by non-publication of the chess work on which they had been engaged. The court awarded Rosenthal 15,000 francs for salary according to agreements, but rejected all his other demands.

In Jan 1899, former world chess champion William Steinitz resigned from the Manhattan Chess Club after Judge Jerome said that the club was not a club for professional players. Steinitz took offense and resigned his membership. (source: *New York Times*, Jan 15, 1899 and *Tartajubow on Chess*, Sep 13, 2019)

On September 3, 1900, the first Western Chess Association (the first U.S. Open) was held in Excelsior, Minnesota. The winner was Louis Uedemann (1854-1912). He won it again in 1902.

In 1900, Henry Bird was in financial difficulties. However, many of his admirers provided him an annuity. The chief contributors to the fund were the members of the St. George's Chess Club in London. They were able to raise 425 British pounds for him (about \$60,000 in today's currency).

In 1901, Bird was confined to his bed. He knocked over a lamp, which set his room on fire at 16 Chetwode-road, Upper Tooting, Surrey. Mrs. Hartland, his landlady, was severely burnt in putting out the flames. (source: *Aberdeen Journal*, June 13, 1901, p. 4)

On May 20, 1901, German chess master Johannes von Minckwitz (1843-1901) died by suicide in Leipzig. On May 17, 1901, he threw himself underneath an electric train in Germany and lost both arms. He died 3 days later. He had been suffering mental and psychological problems. (sources: *Chicago Daily Tribune*, May 20, 1901, p. 20 and *British Chess Magazine*, July 1901, p. 281)

In 1902, Robert Falcon Scott (1868-1912) built *Discovery Hut*, located on Hut Point, Ross Island. It contained many artifacts, including a hand-made chess set. The chess pieces were carved from broom handles. The hut was to be protected as an historic site with no relic or artifact to be removed. Around 2003, it was discovered that the chess set was stolen.

On June 10, 1902, six passengers on the American liner SS Philadelphia and one passenger (Paul Ginther) on the Canard liner SS Campania 80 miles away in the Atlantic played the first match by radio, transmitting their moves by wireless operators aboard the ships. The match was not concluded after 21 moves and several hours since the radios were needed for navigational use and the ships failed to reestablish communications. Later, the SS Philadelphia played other ships, winning its chess games, and claiming to be the first mid-ocean wireless chess champion. (sources: *The New York Times*, June 15, 1902 and Jan 19, 1903, *Champaign County Gazette*, June 21, 1902, p. 9, and *The Argus*, Jan 21, 1903)

In 1903, French soldier Colonel Charles Paul Narcisse Moreau (1837-1916) had the worst score ever in a chess tournament, scoring 0 out of 26 games in Monte Carlo. He was allowed to play in this international event because he was on the tournament organizing committee.

In August 1903, perhaps the first movie with a chess scene was *A Chess Dispute*. It was a British 1-minute black-and-white silent comedy film. Two dapper gentlemen play a game of chess at an outdoor cafe. As one of the players look away, the other player shifts his king and takes an enemy piece off the chessboard. A fight then ensues following a disputed chess move. From squirting

with a seltzer bottle to a fist fight, the players wrestle each other to the floor. They continue the fight out of the camera's view, hidden by the wooden table until the water arrives to haul the chess bums out. The director was English film pioneer Robert W. Paul (1869-1943) and produced by his studio, Paul's Animatograph Works. One of the actors was Alfred Collins.

Cardinal Giocchino Pecci (1810-1903), who became Pope Leo XIII, was an avid chess player. He played chess for over 30 years. He may have been the strongest pope to play chess. (source: *Anaconda (Virginia) Peninsula Enterprise*, Jan 14, 1899)

In 1904, the chess cable matches between the United States and England was halted due to the Russo-Japanese war, which made arrangements for the cabling too difficult. The cables were filled with battle reports and diplomatic necessities, with no time to allow chess cable matches. There was no Anglo-American cable chess matches for three years.

On January 6, 1905, chess master Frank Marshall (1877-1944) married Caroline "Carrie" Krauss in New York. The next day, they sailed for Paris where Marshall was to play a chess match. At the time, the Marshall Chess Club had only one woman member. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, June 1971, p. 316)

On March 27, 1905 Harry Nelson Pillsbury (1872-1906) was operated on at the Presbyterian Hospital in Philadelphia. A few days later, while in a high fever, he tried to jump out of a 4th story hospital window.

It was reported that Harry N. Pillsbury, the United States chess champion, attempted suicide at the Philadelphia Presbyterian Hospital, Thursday night, while temporarily deranged. Later, it was reported that it was merely a case of delirium consequent upon his feverish state following a delicate operation earlier in the week. While his mind was wandering, Pillsbury acted strangely, much after the manner of this class of patients, and wound up by making a bee line for one of the windows on the 4th floor. The presumption was that he contemplated hurling himself to destruction below, but the timely arrival of Mrs. Pillsbury served to quiet him, and he returned to his room to obtain much needed rest. (source: *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, Apr 1, 1905)

Walter Penn Shipley declared that Pillsbury's mishap was overblown and that there is no cause whatever for alarm as to Pillsbury's condition. Shipley wrote: The statements in the papers in reference to Mr. Pillsbury's condition have been grossly exaggerated. Pillsbury enter the hospital for a slight operation for a trouble from which he has been suffering for the past two years. Pillsbury is expected to be around again in about a week. As a result of the lack of nourishment and the effects of ether, Mr. Pillsbury had a delusion Thursday night that he must be present at an entertainment given for him in Philadelphia, and that he must be on hand promptly. Pillsbury got up and dressed himself and started to leave the hospital when he was interfered with by the nurses. He attempted to force his way out of the hospital. He was, however, aroused in the course of about half an hour, realized where he was and retired peacefully to bed. His wife was not at the hospital at the time. (source: Brooklyn Daily Eagle, Apr 3, 1905)

In December 1906, Nicolai Jasnogrodsky (1859-1914), a chess master, was arrested for swindling 10 citizens of Bay City, Michigan out of \$10,000 to marry a rich rabbi's daughter. He was an insurance agent and won the New York State Chess Championship in 1896. (source: *New York Times*, Dec 3, 1906, p. 6)

In 1906, the first national chess correspondence association, the British Correspondence Chess Association (BCCA), was formed.

In June 1907, the New York State Chess Championship was played aboard the ship *S.S. Alexandria*, a steam paddle boat. It sailed between Charlotte, New York and Quebec. The winner was Julius Finn (1871-1931), who also won it in 1901 and 1908.

Max Harmonist (1864-1907) was a German chess master and a royal ballet dancer. In chess, he beat Blackburne, Gunsberg, Mieses, Paulsen, and Tarrasch. Despite being a professional ballet dancer, he suffered from cerebral palsy.

In July 1908, the first chess game by wireless telegraphy between groups of players on two ocean liners (*Campania* and *Oceanic*) was played in the Atlantic Ocean. The game was a draw.

In August 1908, the opening ceremony for the 1908 World Chess Championship between Emanuel Lasker and Siegbert Tarrasch was held in Dusseldorf. At the ceremony, Tarrasch refused to talk to Lasker. Tarrasch, on catching sight of Lasker, literally clicked his heels and said: "Mr. Lasker, I have only three words to you: check and mate!"

In 1909, Eliza Foot (1851-1914) wrote a book on chess puzzles, becoming the first American woman chess author. She was President of the Women's Chess Club in New York. In 1893, she created the Women's Chess Association of America. She was later killed by a hit-and-run driver in New York City.

In 1910, Dr. Siegbert Tarrasch objected to the entrance of Fred D. Yates at an international tournament in Hamburg on the ground that Yates was not strong enough to compete. Yates did play and the only game he won was against Tarrasch. (source: *Chess Review*, Jan 1935, p. 5)

In 1910, Carl Schlechter (1874-1918) played a world chess championship match with world champion Emanuel Lasker (1894-1921). After the 9th game, Schlechter was leading by one point and only needed a draw in the 10th and final game of the match. This would have made him world chess champion. After achieving a won game, he blundered into a clearly drawn game, and then blundered again, which led to his loss of the game after 71 moves. The match tied and Lasker retained his title. Schlechter starved to death and died on Dec 27, 1918,

In 1911, biologist Charles Turnbull Harrison (1866-1914) was part of an Australasian Antarctic Expedition. He wrote in his diary that he played chess as much as possible while in Antarctica. He carved his own chess pieces out of wood. He couldn't find anything in Antarctica to use to make chess pieces. He described many of the men on the expedition playing chess during the idle hours. Chess was mentioned at least 53 times in his diary. (source: *Charles Turnbull Harrison Diary*, Dec 2, 1911 to Dec 31, 1912).

In 1911, the last cable match between the US and UK was played. UK defeated the USA team 6-4 in the 13th cable match. Britain, having won three matches in succession, took permanent possession of the silver Newnes Cup, offered in competition by Sir George Newnes (1851-1910) several years earlier.

On April 15, 1912, when the Titanic sank, dozens of chess letters, chess diagrams, and A. C. White's "Christmas Series" chess books were lost. The RMS Titanic had several chess boards and pieces aboard where passengers could play chess. Chess sets could be checked out to the second class passengers after filling out an application and giving it to the Saloon Steward. The Titanic had the capability of passengers playing chess with other passengers on other ocean liners as much as 1,000 miles away. Ocean liners had been using the wireless radio to play chess while sailing since the early 1900s. The ship that rescued the survivors, the RMS Carpathia, had been playing wireless chess since July 1905, when a game of chess was played by wireless between the Carpathia and the Baltic in the Atlantic Ocean. The game ended in a draw after 30 moves.

In June 1912, a tournament in Budapest was held with 6 masters. Milan Vidmar won the most games, but finished last. Frank Marshall only won one game, and finished first. (source: *Chess Review*, Oct 1933, p. 18)

In September 1913, Jose Capablanca (1888-1942) obtained a post in the Cuban Foreign Office. He was expected to be an ambassador-at-large for Cuba. His official title was "Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary General from the Government of Cuba to the World at Large." He had no specific duties except to play chess around the world. In October 1913, he departed for St. Petersburg to take up his duties as chancellor of the Cuban embassy.

In 1913, at a tournament in Havana, Charles Jaffe (1879-1941) drew his game with Frank Marshall (1877-1944) in the first round, and later, lost his next game to Marshall, blundering away his queen for a rook and then promptly resigned. Jose Capablanca (1888-1942), who lost to Marshall and Jaffe, charged that Jaffe intentionally lost his game to Marshall so that Marshall would win the tournament ahead of Capablanca. It was alleged that Capablanca influenced tournament organizers in the USA and Cuba so that Jaffe would be unable to be invited or play in major tournaments after this, especially tournaments in which Capablanca was playing. Jaffe never played again in a tournament where Capablanca also participated.

On Aug 2, 1914, the last round of Mannheim tournament, 19th German Chess Federation Ch was played. Alekhine led by 9.5 - 1.5, followed by Vidmar and Spielmann. After the declaration of war, eleven "Russian" players (Alekhine,

Bogoljubov, Bogatyrchuk, Flamberg, Koppelman, Maljutin, Rabinovich, Romanovsky, Saburov, Selezniev, Weinstein) were interned in Rastatt, Germany. On September 14, 17, and 29, 1914, four of them (Alekhine, Bogatyrchuk, Saburov, and Koppelman) were freed and allowed to return home via Switzerland. Romanovsky was freed and went back to Petrograd in 1915, and a sixth one, Flamberg was allowed to return to Warsaw in 1916.

In 1915, one of the first Hollywood silent films to depict a chess scene may have been *A Fool There Was*, was filmed. It was directed by Frank Powell and starred Theda Bara (1885-1955) as the Vamp, one of the first sex symbols of the early 20th century.

In 1916, Siegbert Tarrasch and Jacques Mieses played a chess match in Berlin. The prize was 1/2 pound of butter. Tarrasch won 9-4.

In 1917, Alexander Alekhine was an investigator in Moscow for Centrrosysk, a government agency that located relatives who had disappeared during the Russian Revolution and Civil War.

In 1918, Ossip Bernstein (1882-1962) was arrested and imprisoned by the Cheka (Bolshevik secret police) in Odessa, during the Russian Civil War. Bernstein's crime was his role as a legal advisor to bankers. There was no court trial. A minor official had a firing squad line up Bernstein and a number of other prisoners against a wall to be shot. A superior official appeared and asked to see the list of prisoners' names. Discovering Ossip Bernstein on the list, he asked Bernstein if he was the famous chess master. Not satisfied with Bernstein's affirmative reply, he made him play a game with him. If Bernstein lost or drew, he would be shot. Bernstein won in short order and was released. Soon, he escaped on a British ship and settled in France.

In November 1918, Dr. Albert Einstein (1879-1955) met Dr. Emanuel Lasker in Berlin at the house of philosopher Alexander Moszkowski (1851-1934), and they became good friends, even sharing an apartment. Einstein was not a good chess player. Lasker thought that Einstein's theory of relativity was wrong and that the speed of light was limited due to particles in space and that there is no perfect vacuum. Einstein wrote to his mother about meeting Lasker.

In June 1919, Alexander Alekhine was briefly imprisoned in Odessa's death cell by the Odessa Cheka, suspected of being a spy. He was charged with links with White counter-intelligence after the Russians liberated the Ukraine from German occupation. He was sentenced by a Revolutionary tribunal to be shot by a firing squad. Some sources say that Leon Trotsky himself spared Alekhine's life.

Dr. Elmer E. Southard (1876-1920) was a noted neurologist of Boston. He represented his college (top board at Harvard) in the intercollegiate chess matches, and scored 24 wins out of 24 games in the four annual contests of his collegiate career. He was able to play 6 chess games blindfolded simultaneously. At Danvers State Hospital (also known as Danvers Lunatic Asylum), in Danvers, Massachusetts, he introduced a move he called the Danvers opening – 1.e4 e5 2.Qh5. (source: *Chess Review*, Jan 1933, p. 10)

In October 1920, the first 'All-Russian Chess Olympiad' was held in Moscow. The competitors stopped halfway through the event, went on strike, and refused to play any more chess unless they were given more food rations and prize money. Their demands were finally met. The event was later recognized as the 1st USSR Championship, won by Alexander Alekhine.

On February 1, 1921, the American state department and the American consulate in Berlin refused to give a visa to world champion Emanuel Lasker and his wife for his proposed trip to the United States and Cuba to meet Capablanca. Lasker planned on going to Cuba via New York, but the State Department refused to give Lasker a visa for any American port city because of his German background. Lasker then made arrangements to travel via Amsterdam direct to Havana. (source: *The Des Moines Register*, Feb 2, 1921)

In January 1922, Frank Marshall played 155 games simultaneously in Canada, winning 126, drawing 21, and losing 8 games in 7 hours. After the exhibition, he was able to recall 153 of the 155 games. (source: *Chess Review*, Feb 1933, p. 4)

In 1922, the Georgia-Florida Chess Association was formed. It turned into the Southeastern Chess Association in the early 1930s. In 1935, the Southern Chess Association (SCA) was created as a successor to the Southeastern Chess Association. At one time the SCA rivaled the US Chess Federation. (source: *Chess Life*, Nov 1, 1946, p. 7)

In 1922, Akiba Rubinstein won 4 brilliancy prizes in one tournament, held at Teplitz-Schonau. (source: *Chess Review*, Dec 1935, p. 285)

On June 3, 1923, Sam Katz was playing a game against Louis Silverman at the Pitkin Chess Club in New York. Katz made a move which resulted in the loss of Silverman's queen. The shock of losing his queen caused Silverman to have a heart attack. He died at the chess board. Silverman was only 47. (source: *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, June 4, 1923)

Joseph Henry Blackburne (1841-1924) was known for his alcohol drinking. During a simultaneous exhibition at Cambridge University, the students thought to gain the advantage by placing a bottle of whisky and a glass at each end of the playing oval. In the end, he emptied both bottles and won all his games in record time. During the temperance movement in England, he declared that whisky drinking improved one's chess because alcohol cleared the brain and he tried to prove that theory as often as possible. In one of Blackburne's many simultaneous exhibitions, he grabbed his opponent's drink when he wasn't looking, and quickly downed it. After the game, which Blackburne won, he commented "My opponent left a glass of whisky en prise, and I took it en passant." Blackburne was also a pipe smoker.

On January 31, 1924, Curt von Bardeleben (1861-1924) may have thrown himself out of the second-floor window of his boarding home in Berlin and died of his injuries. Other sources say he fell out by accident. Seeking some fresh air, he opened a low silled window and fell out. He was living in extreme poverty at the time.

In 1924, there were 3,000 chess club members in all of Russia. Only 7 chess players were considered in the master class. There were about 50 players in the first class division. Then a major movement under the auspices of the Physical Culture Federation began. In 10 years, there were 500,000 enrolled chess club members. (source: *Chess Review*, April 1935, p. 82)

In September, 1925, Mrs. June Sawyer was granted a divorce from her husband, Barritt Sawyer of Philadelphia, on the charge of cruel and barbarous treatment. Mrs. Sawyer alleged that her husband lost control and hit and beat her following

chess games in which she defeated him in a game of chess. (source: *Delaware County Daily Times*, Sep 23, 1925)

On January 2, 1926, Benjamin R. Foster (1850-1926) committed suicide by shooting himself through the head. He was chess editor of the *St. Louis Globe Democrat* for 37 years. (source: *The Sedalia Democrat*, Jan 3, 1926)

On February 4, 1926, Rev. Dr. Frederick Gotweald, 58, died of a heart attack while playing chess at the YMCA in York, Pennsylvania. (source: *Harrisburg Evening News*, Feb 5, 1926)

On September 4, 1926, W. B. Victor, age 55, shot and killed himself at the New Orleans Chess Club. (source: *Greenwood Index-Journal*, Sep 5, 1926)

In 1926, the first Polish Chess Championship was held in Warsaw. The winner was David Przepiorka. In 1927, the 2nd Polish Chess Championship was held in Lodz. The winner was Akiba Rubinsten. There was a pause of 8 years before the next Chess Championship was held. It was held in Warsaw in 1935 and won by Tartakover. The 4th championship was held in 1937. The 5th championship was held in 1946.

In January, 1927, Efim Bogoljubov (1889-1952) was officially banned and excommunicated from the USSR. Because he exhibited the typically bourgeois vice of putting his pocket book above his principles, Bogoljubov, who was chess champion of the Soviet Union, was excommunicated by the chess section of the All-Union Soviet of Physical Culture. The chess section declared he was no longer chess champion. He was also no longer a member of the Soviet chess organization. He was expelled when he expressed the desire to give up his Soviet citizenship in order to be able to attend a tournament in Merano, Italy. He was unable to go because the Italian authorities refused to recognize his Soviet passport. Bogoljubov wrote to the Soviet chess organization declaring that in view of the difficulties of moving about Europe with a Soviet passport, he was thinking of assuming the citizenship of another country. (source: *The Bridgeport Telegram*, Jan 27, 1927)

In December 1927, the closing ceremony of the 1927 World Chess Championship match between Alekhine and Capablanca was held in Buenos Aires. Alekhine

showed up at the ceremony to be crowned the new world chess champion and thanked everyone, but Capablanca did not show up and refused to participate in a public closing ceremony.

In July, 1928, the Brooklyn YMCA banned chess. All the chess tables and pieces were removed and the YMCA management forbade its members from playing chess even on a magnetic or pocket chess set. The secretary of the YMCA concluded that chess attracted too many undesirable elements to the YMCA and that too many chess players or spectators were smoking during a chess game. Smoking was forbidden inside the YMCA. The YMCA also did not want to fund the extra supervisory personnel it needed to keep a room open for chess. (source: *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, July 11, 1928)

In August, 1929, Alexander Alekhine was present at the Carlsbad tournament as a correspondent for the *New York Times*, in which he wrote six reports. Alekhine did not play in the event, but Capablanca did. The two were no longer on speaking terms, and did not greet each other.

In 1929, after the stock market crashed, Humphrey Bogart (1899-1957) hustled chess players for quarters in New York City parks and for dimes against all comers at Coney Island. Bogart said he preferred to play chess rather than poker, because no one could cheat.

In December 1928 Albert Einstein (1879-1955) wrote to Dr. Emanuel Lasker, congratulating him on his 60th birthday. Einstein wrote, "Emanuel Lasker is one of the strongest minds I ever met in my life. A Renaissance man, gifted with an untamable urge for liberty; averse to any social bonds.... As a genuine individualist and self-willed soul, he loves deduction; and inductive research leaves him cold.... I love his writings, irrespective of their content of truth, as the fruits of a great original and free mind." Einstein was an amateur chessplayer. He played chess with his neighbors and friends. He always had a chessboard set up at home. He was probably most active in chess in the late 1920s and early 1930s. In 1934 Einstein visited friends and relaxed with a game of chess. When he met children, he asked them if they liked music or could they play chess. He would occasionally teach a child the basics of chess, then tell that child to practice, then would play that child a game of chess the next time they met. (see "My Saturday Afternoons with Albert Einstein" by Ralph Gardner <http://www.evesmag.com/einstein.htm>). On March 28, 1936, an article

appeared in the New York Times called "New Chess Theory Not for Einstein." In an interview, he said, "I do not play any games. There is no time for it. When I get through work I don't want anything which requires the working of the mind." Einstein preferred playing the violin and sailing. Einstein did say he played chess as a boy. Walter Isaacson's biography stated that Einstein was such a pacifist, he would not even play a war game like chess.

Richard Barnett (1863-1930), an Irish barrister, was an expert sport shooter. Barnett represented Ireland in the contest for the Elcho Shield on 37 occasions, and twice made the record score. He was one of twelve competitors for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in the 1908 Summer Olympics. He finished fourth in the 1000-yard free rifle competition. He was also Irish Chess Champion from 1886 to 1889. At Oxford he was president of the Oxford University Chess Club, competing in a number of varsity matches against Cambridge in the 1880s. (Abrahams, *Not Only Chess*, p. 38)

In April, 1930, chess was banned in Harbin, China as too dangerous and against the public welfare. Manchurian Chinese police raided cafes to stop anyone from playing chess. Players protested they were not gambling or playing for money. The Chinese police responded, No matter. Such games are dangerous. (source: *Edwardsville, Illinois Intelligencer*, Apr 24, 1930)

In September, 1931, Alexander Alekhine won at Bled, 5 1/2 points more than 2nd place (Efim Bogoljubov). Alekhine scored 15 wins, 11 draws, and no losses. Geza Maroczy (1870-1951) challenged Aron Nimzowitch (1886-1935) to a pistol duel at dawn during the chess tournament in Bled. Earlier, the two got in an argument and when Maroczy challenged Nimzowitch to a duel, Nimzowitsch rightly refused. Alekhine won the event. Nimzowitsch took 3rd place. Maroczy took 11th place. (source: *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, Oct 1, 1931)

In 1931, the city government at St. Petersburg made available the building that housed the St. Petersburg Chess Club. It was the largest building in the south exclusively devoted to chess, and perhaps the largest so devoted in the United States. (source: *Chess Life*, Feb 5, 1947, p. 3)

In 1932, chess master Norman Whitaker (1890-1975) gained notoriety during the kidnapping of Charles Lindbergh, Jr. in March 1932. A former FBI Agent named

Gaston Means concocted a scheme to swindle \$104,000 from a wealthy heiress by claiming to be in contact with the kidnappers. Means intended to use Whitaker as the bagman to pick up her money, but both were arrested and convicted. Whitaker was later convicted of attempted extortion. He claimed that the Lindbergh kidnappers had refused \$49,500 of the ransom money paid by Mrs. Evalyn McLean because the serial numbers on the money had been published. Therefore, he demanded replacement money in the amount of \$35,000, in exchange for which he promised to return the original \$49,500 plus the baby. That was when the FBI was finally called in. Whitaker never got any of the money and, when asked what happened to the money, Whitaker replied, "I do not know and I wish I did". Whitaker got out in just 18 months. Earlier in his life, he was convicted of several other crimes, including auto theft, sending morphine through the mail, and sexual molestation of a minor. He served time in Alcatraz and was a friend of Al Capone there. (source: *New York Times*, Jun 29, 1932, p. 9)

In his 1930s radio show, cartoonist LeRoy Robert Ripley (1890-1949) devoted two radio episodes to the game of chess. One episode was about a game of chess that was fatal to a sultan of Egypt in 1249. While playing chess, he was poisoned by his wife. Another episode was how a game of chess drove a man crazy. In the 1800s, a mad Hungarian Count was told to play chess with a student to help his concentration. The count and the student played chess for 6 years. The Count was cured, but the student went out of his mind.

In 1932, the first Mexican chess tournament of international character was held in Mexico City. Alexander Alekhine and Isaac Kashdan tied for 1st. The first Mexican Open was held in 1954. The first Mexican Championship was in 1973, won by Mario Campos Lopez. (source: *Chess Review*, Jan 1933, p. 3)

In April 1932, George Koltanowski (1903-2000) played 160 boards simultaneously in Antwerp, winning 135, drawing 18, and losing 7. This was a world record at the time. (source: *Piqua Daily Call*, April 20, 1932)

In 1933, the *Grossdeutsche Schachbund*, a new German chess federation was formed. Dr. Joseph Goebbels (1897-1945), the German Minister of Propaganda, was the honorary President of the *Schachbund*. Jews were excluded from chess tournaments, chess clubs, and café playing rooms. (source: *Chess Review*, Sep 1933, p. 5)

On May 25, 1933, William Shinkman (1847-1933) died. He lived in Grand Rapids, Michigan and worked there as an insurance and estate broker. He was known as the “Wizard of Grand Rapids.” In his lifetime, he published about 4,000 chess problems. (source: *Chess Review*, Aug 1934, p. 140)

Up to 1934, neither Lasker nor Capablanca had ever finished below 3rd in tournament play. But in 1934, Lasker finished 5th at Zurich. In 1935, Capablanca finished 4th at Moscow. (source: *Chess Review*, Dec 1935, p. 286)

In 1935, an international chess tournament was held in Moscow, with players such as Botvinnik, Lasker, Capablanca, Flohr, and Spielmann. Botvinnik and Flohr tied for 1st-2nd. Lasker took 3^d and Capablanca took 4th. The event was held in the Soviet Fine Arts Museum. There was standing room for 5,000 spectators. When the tournament started, the entrance fee for the spectators was 5 rubles. But when there were 100,000 people demanding admission to the first round, the price doubled to 10 rubles. (source: *Chess Review*, April 1935, p. 79)

In March 1935, Dr. Lasker announced that he would make his permanent home in Russia. Where he was to organize and direct an academy of chess. Philosophy and psychology of chess would be studied at his academy. (source: *Chess Review*, April 1935, p. 79)

In 1935, Hans Kmoch wrote several books and magazines for Russia. He was given over \$1,000 honorarium, but it was deposited for him in a Russian State Bank. He never received a cent in royalties since the Russian Government allowed no money to be taken from the country. (source: *Chess Review*, Sep 1935, p. 211)

On Nov 14, 1935, Arthur Dake was finally mated when he married Helen Girard of Long Island. They had met on a ship on the return trip from Warsaw where Dake played on the USA team in the Chess Olympiad. I. A. Horowitz was best man and Frank Marshall gave the bride away. (source: *Chess Review*, Dec 1935, p. 279)

In January 1936, the All-Russian Trade Union Chess Tournament was completed after 6 months of steady play. About 700,000 competitors participated in the

event. G. Lizitzin and V. Chekover tied for 1st-2nd. (source: *Chess Review*, April 1936, p. 92)

In 1936, Germany, who was not a member of FIDE, held an unofficial Chess Olympiad in Munich. It was called the "Extra Olympiad." 21 teams played. Hungary won all its matches and came first with 110.5 games points. Poland took 2nd with 108 points. Germany took 3rd with 106.5 points. The USA declined entry. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Jan 1971, p. 7)

In 1937, Manhattan Chess Club member Louis Zeckendorf (1838-1937) died at the age of 99. He was less than a month short of reaching 100. During the Civil War, he played chess with Confederate General James Longstreet (1821-1904). (source: *Chess Review*, April 1937, p. 85)

In 1938, a customs guard in a Southeastern European country caught two train travelers in the act of smuggling some diamonds into another country. The two travelers concealed the diamonds in a small travelers' chess set. When asked to explain how the guard detected the smuggling, the guard replied, "I can play chess, you know. I took a casual look at the position on the board and at once realized such a position could never have arisen in a real game!" (source: *Chess Review*, Aug 1938, p. 181)

In 1938, Alexander Alekhine stated that he was able to recall every chess of note by masters of the last 30 years, with all their moves. (source: *Chess Review*, Jan 1939, p. 21)

George Emlen Roosevelt (1887-1963) was a cousin of Theodore Roosevelt. He served as President of the Marshall Chess Club in the 19338-39. He headed a committee to select the chess team to represent the USA in the International Team Tournament in Buenos Aires in August 1939. The USA team was unable to participate due to schedule conflicts of the tournament from July to August and lack of funds. 40 teams were to play, but only 27 nations participated. Roosevelt was also vice-president and treasurer of the newly formed United States Chess Federation in 1939. (sources: *Chess Review*, Mar 1939, p. 53 and July-August 1939, p. 149)

In 1939, the Hollywood Anti-Nazi Chess League was formed and participated in chess team events. Its top board was Harry Borochoy, champion of California. (source: *Chess Review*, May 1939, p. 104)

In 1939, the American Chess Federation merged with the National Chess Federation to form the United States of America Chess Federation (U.S. of A.C.F.). (source: *Chess Review*, Sep 1939, p. 174)

Puerto Rico was to have sent a chess team to Buenos Aires. A bill was approved by both the House of Representatives and the Senate which authorized a fund of \$3,000 for the team. However, Governor Blanton Winship was against it and did not sign the bill. (source: *Chess Review*, Oct 1939, p. 213)

World War II was declared on Sep 3, 1939. The England team, having qualified for the Olympiad finals in Buenos Aires, was obliged to sail home back to England. The games between France vs. Germany and Poland vs. Germany were not played and the match scores were halved without play. (source: *Chess Review*, Oct 1939, p. 197)

In September 1939, the headquarters for FIDE was transferred to Argentina. President Augusto de Muro of the Argentine Chess Federation became the president of FIDE. (source: *Chess Review*, Oct 1939, p. 199)

In 1939, at the start of World War II, FIDE shut down completely until 1946. At its 1946 FIDE Congress, there were only 7 members present. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Feb 1971, p. 64)

In 1939, Elaine Saunders (1926-2012) won the British Ladies' championship. She was only 13. She also won in 1946, 1956, and 1965. (source: *Chess Review*, Oct 1939, p. 215)

In 1939, at the start of World War II, FIDE shut down completely until 1946. At its 1946 FIDE Congress, there were only 7 members present. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Feb 1971, p. 64)

In 1939, banker George Emien Roosevelt (1887-1963) was a chess patron, president of the Marshall Chess Club, and helped raise money to support the USA

team in the 1939 Chess Olympiad in Buenos Aires. Unfortunately, the team was unable to go due to unforeseen circumstances in scheduling and other commitments. George was a cousin of Theodore Roosevelt.

In December 1939, the National Chess Centre opened in London. After a few months, it had 360 members. An advertisement for the Centre was “Large and well-appointed Air Raid Center on the premises.” (source: *Chess Review*, March 1940, p. 31)

On February 17, 1940, the several times New England chess champion, Harold Morton (1906-1940), died in Iowa after a car wreck. His passenger, Al Horowitz (1907-1973), was seriously injured. They were travelling together giving tandem simultaneous chess exhibitions across the country. Morton was driving on the return trip from the west back to an exhibition in Minneapolis when he collided with a truck. Morton was killed instantly and Horowitz suffered a concussion and chest injuries. (source: *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, Feb 22, 1940)

In 1940, the California School for the Deaf lost 3 matches in a row to the chess team of the California School of the Blind. (source: *Chess Review*, May 1940, p. 73)

On January 11, 1941, Emanuel Lasker (1868-1941) died of a kidney infection (uremic poisoning) in Manhattan at the age of 72. He had been a charity patient at Mount Sinai hospital. About the same time, his sister died in a Nazi gas chamber. A condolence letter was sent to his first wife Martha Lasker (1867-1942) by Albert Einstein, when Emanuel Lasker died. He was the second official World Chess Champion, reigning for a record 27 years after he defeated the first World Champion, William Steinitz, in 1894. (source: *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, Jan 12, 1941)

On May 24, 1941, L. Walter Stephens (1883-1948), Vice-President of the US Chess Federation, was referring a match between Reshevsky and Horowitz on Staten Island. He left his car unlocked outside the hall where the match was being played. His car was stolen by an ex-convict. Staten Island police captured the convict the next day and recovered the car. Stephens asked the Judge to parole the thief in his custody and perhaps teach him chess. The judge said no. (source: *Chess Review*, May 1941, p. 76)

In late 1941, Herman Steiner (1905-1955) gave a gigantic simultaneous chess exhibition in Hollywood for the benefit of British War Relief. He played 400 players on 100 boards, winning 83, drawing 11, and losing 6. The event drew a large movie crowd. (source: *Chess Review*, Dec 1941, p. 232)

In January 1942, Jose Capablanca (1888-1942) gave a series of chess lectures in Spanish and broadcasted to Latin American listeners. Before the lectures, he had to go out and buy a chess set. He had no chess set in his house. He had to buy the chess set to prepare his lectures for the radio, which he had written in Spanish. In *Capablanca's Last Chess Lectures*, he wrote, "I received a great number of chess sets as gifts. I especially remember a very handsome and rare set which I tried to hold on to, but which has gone with the others. The result is that today (1942) I do not possess a single set. My travels, my changes of residence, and my children did away with every single one." Capablanca died two months later.

At 10:30 pm on Sunday evening, March 7, 1942, Jose Capablanca suffered a stroke at the Manhattan Chess Club (130 Central Park South) while watching a skittles game. His last words were, "Help me with my coat," in Spanish. He fell to the floor and lapsed into a coma before the arrival of medical help. He died at 6 a.m. on March 8, 1942 at Mount Sinai hospital, the same hospital that Emanuel Lasker died a year earlier. The cause of death was given as "a cerebral hemorrhage provoked by hypertension." He was the shortest lived world champion, dying at age 53 years, 109 days. At the time of his death, Capablanca was still the commercial attache of the Cuban Embassy.

At the time of his death, he left a widow, Olga, a son and a daughter, Jose R. Jr. and Gloria Capablanca de los Angeles, and three brothers. Olga died in New York on April 24, 1994, at the age of 95. He was buried with full honors in Havana. General Batista, President of Cuba, took personal charge of the funeral arrangements. On March 15, 1942, Capablanca's body was given a public funeral in Havana's Colon Cemetery.

In 1942, the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* reported on Humphrey Bogart's chess. "Humphrey Bogart and Paul Henreid started a chess game months ago, when production first started on "Capablanca." They have continued making a move by

note or telephone or catching up, face to face, for a few minutes on the set of new pictures in which they are working.” —Brooklyn Daily Eagle, Dec 6, 1942

In 1942, Dr. Savielly Tartakower (1887-1956) joined the Free French Army in England. He changed his name to Lieutenant Dr. Georges Cartier. (source: *Chess Review*, Feb 1942, p. 46)

In 1943, Eugene Znosko-Borovsky (1884-1954), a Russian chess player who lived in Paris, was giving chess exhibitions in Paris for the benefit of war prisoners. (source: *Chess Review*, Feb 1943, p. 46)

From June 9, 1943 to Dec 7, 1947, Bruno Czaikowski (1908-?) devoted over 2,000 hours to playing chess and checkers with hospitalized veterans in the Chicago area. He never missed a Sunday of visiting hospitalized veterans through 1951. (source: *Chess Review*, Jan 1948, p. 5)

In 1943, the movie *Above Suspicion* was made, starring Joan Crawford, Fred MacMurray, and Basil Rathbone. The plot involves a doctor who collects chess pieces. There was \$50,000 worth of rare chess pieces used in the movie. Special guards were hired by MGM to guard the chess pieces. The chess pieces were on loan from museums and were the finest available. One set alone was valued at \$5,000, carved from ivory and took three generations of one family to complete. Each piece took more than a year to make (32 pieces). During the movies, Fred MacMurray and Basil Rathbone took up chess, and they played many chess games between scenes of the movie. (source: *Canonsburg Daily News*, Jan 18, 1943)

In 1943, Humphrey Bogart (1899-1957) was playing several correspondence chess games with military personnel. It all started when a private, stationed in California, visited the set of *Casablanca*. At the set at the Hollywood Theatre, Bogart was playing Sydney Greenstreet between scenes. The private asked for a game against Bogart, which Bogart accepted. When the soldier was transferred to the South Pacific, he kept up a game with Bogart by mail. Since starting the game with the soldier, Bogart took on several other members in the Armed Forces that were stationed overseas. (source: *Chess Review*, Feb 1943, p. 56)

On Oct 10, 1943, Miguel Najdorf (1910-1997) broke the record for simultaneous, blindfold chess play by playing 40 boards at Rosario, Argentina. He faced 2

players at each board for a total of 80 opponents. He won 36, drew 1, and lost 3 games after 17 hours of play. (source: *Chess Review*, Nov 1943, p. 329)

The Golden Knights is the United States open correspondence chess championship. It was first held in 1943, and then called the Victory Tournament. In 1944, it was called the Postal Chess Championship. In 1945, it was finally named the Golden Knights tournament. In 1946, the second annual Golden Knights Postal Chess Championship had 1,456 entrants. It was the largest entry list in any U.S. tournament up to that time. First prize was \$250. It was won by Richard L. Aikin. (source: *Chess Review*, July 1952, p. 196)

In 1944, there were 637 players that entered the U.S. Postal Championship. In 1945, there were 1,127 players entered in the first Annual Golden Knights Championship (1945 Post Chess Championship). In 1946, there were 1,456 players entered in the second Annual Golden Knights Championship. (source: *Chess Review*, Jan 1948, p. 5)

In March 1944, chess was banned by trans-Atlantic mail. It was explained this was done to prevent enemy agents from employing such mediums to get code messages across the Atlantic. Censors searched letters for discussions of chess because enemies would often hide codes in chess symbols and moves. Chess moves were censored between American players and Canadian military in 1943. (source: *Troy Record*, Mar 31, 1944)

On May 7, 1944, Arnold S. Denker (1914-2005) won the 5th US Championship, held in New York. (15.5-1.5). He won 9 straight games in this event (winning 13, drawing 3, and losing none). Gisela K. Gresser won the US women's championship with 8 straight wins. Reshevsky did not compete in the U.S. chess championship that year because he was studying for his Certified Public Accountant (CPA) degree. (source: *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, May 8, 1944)

Vera Menchik was World's Women Champion from 1927 until her death on June 26, 1944. She has been the longest reigning Women's World Chess Champion (17 years). There was no world's women champion from 1944 until 1950 when Ludmilla Rudenko of the Soviet Union won the world's women championship in Moscow. A few days before she was killed, Vera was playing the championship of the Southern Counties Chess Union. It was an elimination tournament and she

had won her first 3 games. She qualified for the semifinals and was supposed to play her next game on June 27, 1944. She died one day before her scheduled game.

Vera Menchik was killed, along with her sister Olga and mother, in a bombing raid on the night of Tuesday, June 27, 1944, at the age of 38. A Nazi V-1 buzz bomb hit her home at 47 Gauden Road in the Clapham area of South London. The house was razed to the ground. A total of 11 people were killed on Cauden Road from the V1 bomb that hit.

Vera, her mother, and her sister, Olga, had all taken shelter in the house basement, rather than going to the backyard bomb shelter or the neighborhood bomb shelters, which went untouched. The V-1 rocket was a direct hit on their house, leaving the backyard bomb shelter unscathed.

The first source announcing her death was The Times of London on June 30, 1944, page 7. On July 4, 1944, Vera, her mother, and her sister were all cremated at the Streathan Park Crematorium on Rowan Road in England. Their ashes were scattered at a garden of remembrance. She is buried in the Wandsworth Cemetery in London.

On July 18, 1944 a columnist in the Sussex Daily News wrote about the rocket bombing of Vera Menchik: "In the annals against the German nation, this black blot will remain forever marked against the German nation, and must fill chess players of the future with repulsion and disgust."

Another report on Menchik's death said this: "The news of this unspeakable tragedy will be received by the chess world with sorrow and with abhorrence of the wanton and useless robot methods of a robot people. One shudders at the heritage of hatred which will be theirs, but their greatest punishment will come with their own enlightenment." ("Vera Menchik Dead," CHESS, Aug 1944, p. 173)

Her death was also reported in the British magazine called The Children's Newspaper. "Chess-players all over the world will be grieved at the death, by enemy action, of Mrs. Vera Stevenson, better known as Vera Menchik. Though only 38, she had been famous as an international chess-player for 20 years, having gained the title of world champion among women in 1926, and held it ever

since. She was well able to meet and contest hard games with the foremost men chess-masters, such as Lasker, Capablanca, Alekhine, and Sir George Thomas. Russian-born, she came to this country at the age of 16, and in 1937 married the secretary of the British Chess Federation, Mr R. H. S. Stevenson, who died last year. Vera Menchik was a gentle, delightful personality, who will be mourned for her sweet nature as well as for her fame in the most fascinating of indoor games." (source: *The Children's Newspaper*, July 15, 1944, p. 2)

In 1945, Alexander Kotov (1913-1981) was awarded the Order of Lenin for an important invention relating to mortars. His father was an armory worker. Kotov won the championship of Tula at age 16. In 1939, he took 2nd in the USSR championship, behind Botvinnik. He was awarded the Soviet Grandmaster title, the third to do so after Botvinnik and Levenfish. (source: *Chess Review*, Feb 1945, P. 9)

On August 12, 1945, the first Pan American Chess Championship, held in Hollywood, was won by Samuel Reshevsky (1911-1992). It was also called the Western Hemisphere championship. Marlene Dietrich, just returned from a 13-months overseas entertainment tour, was a spectator at the event. Reshevsky won \$1,000 (over \$13,000 in today's currency). He was supposed to play PFC Herbert Seidman in the final round, but the Army cancelled his leave. (sources: *Salem Daily Capital Journal*, Aug 6, 1945 and *Ottawa Journal*, Aug 11, 1945)

In December 1945, Valentina Belova (1920-1993) won the world women's championship. At the time, she was a sophomore at the Leningrad Mining University. First prize was 4,000 rubles (\$750 in 1946, worth over \$11,000 in 2022). (source: *Chess Review*, Jan 1946, p. 11)

Dr. Oscar Blum (1886-1946?) was a Lithuanian-French chess master. His vice was not paying his bills. While at Folkestone, England, for a chess tournament, he ran up a hotel bill for 5 British pounds and left without paying. He then went to London where he ran up a rental bill of 20 British pounds without paying. He was arrested after being ordered to leave the country but refused to leave. He was sentenced to two months of hard labor.

In January 1946, during the last round of the Hastings chess tournament, an unexploded mine washed up on shore by the site. Military personnel were called out to deactivate the bomb. The event was won by Dr. Savielly Tartakower. (source: *Chess Review*, Jan 1946, p. 7)

In January, 1946, a Victory Chess Tournament was to be held in London. World Champion Alexander Alekhine was first invited by the British. There were objections from the Dutch and the U.S. Chess Federation because of his articles of anti-Jewish content published under the signature of Alekhine. Some of the masters (USA) had threatened to withdraw from the tournament if Alekhine was invited. Alekhine was not invited to the event, which was won by Herman Steiner (8 wins, 1 loss, 2 draws) (source: *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, Jan 31, 1946)

In 1946, the Friburgo Xadrez Clube in Brazil was the world's largest chess club, with a theatre that could seat 2,000 people. The completion cost of the club was \$250,000, which included a swimming pool and tennis courts. (source: *Chess Review*, Feb 1946, p. 8)

In 1946, the Association of American Masters was formed. Its President was Edward Lasker (1885-1981). (source: *Chess Review*, Mar 1946, p. 8)

During World War II, the Japanese in the Philippines destroyed all chess sets, chess club furniture, chess books and equipment. The Philippines were isolated from the chess world for more than three years. (source: *Chess Review*, Mar 1946, p. 9)

On March 24 1946, Dr. Alexander Alekhine died penniless in a hotel room in Estoril, Portugal. His funeral was delayed for 5 days until the Portuguese Chess Federation raised enough money to pay for his burial. In 1956, his body was transferred to a cemetery in Paris. (source: *Chess Review*, May 1946, p. 5)

In 1946, a chess book published in 1474 was sold at auction in London for \$7,600 (\$116,000 in 2022 currency). The book is *The Game and Playe of Chess* by Jacobus de Cessolis, translated by William Caxton. (source: *Chess Review*, May 1946, p. 5)

In 1946, Mikhail Botvinnik received his second government decoration, the Order of the Badge of Honor, for his work in the development of electric power stations in the Urals. (source: *Chess Review*, May 1946, p. 8)

In 1946, there were 9 Soviet chess grandmasters – Botvinnik, Smyslov, Keres, Bolesavsky, Flohr, Kotov, Bondarevsky, Lilienthal, and Ragozin. (source: *Chess Review*, Oct 1946, p. 11)

In 1946, the first USCF Chess Problem Tourney had 226 entries. (source: *Chess Life*, Sep 1, 1946, p. 1)

In July 1946, Larry Friedman (1930-) won the first USCF Junior Tournament, held in Chicago. There were 32 juniors, from 14 to 19, in the event. Friedman also won in 1947. (source: *Chess Life*, Sep 1, 1946, p. 1)

During World War II, there were wartime restrictions on amateur and shortwave radio transmissions. In 1946, after restrictions were lifted, the USCF announced the formation of a national chess radio league. (source: *Chess Life*, Nov 20, 1946, p. 1)

Alexander Alekhine's (1892-1946) father, Alexander Ivanovich Alekhin, was a wealthy landowner, a marshall of the nobility, and a member of the Duma. His mother, Anisya Ivanova Prokhorova, was an heiress of an industrial fortune. His older sister, Varvara (1889-1944), was a chess player. His older brother, Alexei Alekhine (1888-1939) was a strong chess player. In 1913, Alexander fathered an illegitimate daughter. In March 1920, Alexander married Alexandra Batayeva, a Russian baroness several years older than he. They divorced the next year. In March 1921, he married Anneliese Ruegg, a Swiss woman journalist, who was 13 years older than he. In June 1921, he abandoned his second wife in Paris and went to Berlin. In 1927, he married his third wife, Nadiezda Vasiliev (nee Fabritzky), another older woman, the widow of the Russian general V. Vasiliev. His fourth wife, Grace Freeman Wishard (1876-1956) was a chess player. They were married in 1934. She was 16 years older than he.

On Feb 4, 1947, I. A. Horowitz (1907-1973) was traveling the country giving simultaneous exhibitions. While traveling by train near Fresno, California, his train, the Southern Pacific *San Joaquin Daylight Express*, wrecked. He was

uninjured but many passengers were killed and over 100 were injured. Horowitz was in the 13th car. (source: *Chess Review*, Mar 1947, p.6)

On March 5, 1947, Russian chess master Dr. Boris Blumenfeld (1884-1947) died in Moscow. He invented the Blumenfeld Counter Gambit (1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nf3 b5). He was a student of chess psychology. He received his doctorate in 1945 for a dissertation on the nature of blunders in chess. (source: *Chess Review*, May 1947, p.8)

In 1947, Herman Steiner was the chess advisor for the movie *Cass Timberlane*, starring Spencer Tracy and Lana Turner. Steiner told Lana Turner, "Don't play chess. Sitting at a chess board for hours might make you fat and spoil your perfect figure." There were several chess scenes in the movie.

In 1947, there were 37 international chess tournaments, 29 international team matches, and over 50 foreign champions mention in *Chess Review* magazine.. (source: *Chess Review*, Jan 1948, p. 1)

The first postage stamp with a chess theme was issued in Bulgaria in 1947. It was one of five issued to commemorate the 1947 Balkan Games, held in Sofia, Bulgaria on November 2-5, 1947. Chess was one of the sports depicted on the commemorative stamps. The other four stamps portrayed bicycle racing, basketball, soccer, and the flags of the participating nations (Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and Yugoslavia). Hungary won the chess competition. The stamp (9 leva, white and orange brown) was issued on September 29, 1947, showing a knight with the inscription "Balkan Games 1947" and "Republic of Bulgaria. The stamp was designed by St. Kancer and 172,000 were issued. A first day cover was also issued of a brown knight.

In 1947, the 48th US Open was held in Corpus Christi, Texas. It had 86 entrants, which, at the time, was the largest national tournament ever held in the United States. Participants included champions of Canada, Colombia, Cuba, and Puerto Rico. The winner was Isaac Kashdan. (source: *Chess Life*, Sep 1, 1947, p. 2)

In 1948, the Cuban government gave \$30,000 (over \$357,000 in 2022) to buy a "Capablanca-Home" for a national chess club. (source: *Chess Life*, June 20, 1948, p. 3)

In 1948, FIDE admitted two members, New Zealand and Greece. The USCF had assisted in the formation of the new Greek Chess Federation and sponsored Greece into FIDE. (source: *Chess Life*, Sep 15, 1948, p. 1)

In 1948, the first California Open Chess Championship was held. It was organized by the new California State Chess Association. The winner was Jim Cross (1930-) of Glendale. (source: *Chess Life*, Oct 5, 1948, p. 1)

On January 1, 1948, Allen G. Pearsall (1877-1948), age 70, was struck by a car and was killed instantly in Chula Vista, California. He was a member of the Correspondence Chess League of America (CCLA) and a member of the International Chess Olympiad, playing on the USA team. He was returning home after playing chess at the San Diego Chess Club and had just stepped off of a street bus when hit. (source: *Chula Vista Star*, Jan 9, 1948)

In 1948, Charles "Kit" Crittenden (1935-), a 13-year-old junior high school student from Raleigh, became the nation's youngest state champion when he tied for first in the North Carolina Open Tournament. He tied with Russell Chauvenet, but Chauvenet was a resident of Virginia and the title went to Crittenden. Crittenden also won in 1952, 1953, 1956, and 1959. In 1949, he won the Tennessee Open on tiebreak. (sources: *Chess Review*, Sep 1948, p. 5 and Feb 1949, p. 34)

In 1948, during the filming of *Red River*, John Wayne (1907-1979) played lots of chess matches with Pierce Lyden (1908-1998), who had a small part in the movie as a scout. During the filming, Pierce and Wayne played dozens of chess games, with Wayne winning every game. (source: *Duke, We're Glad We Knew You*, by Herb Fagen, p. 70)

On January 8, 1949, Nicholas Rossolimo (1910-1975) won Hastings 1948/49. During the tournament, a chess player, exasperated at losing a piece, snapped his jaws together so hard that he broke his upper dental plate. He asked for his game to be adjourned while he hurried off to a dentist for repairs. (source: *Sydney Morning Herald*, Jan 3, 1949)

In 1949, 40,000 youth played in the Junior Championship of Romania. (source: *Chess Life*, Apr 20, 1949, p. 3)

In 1949, after getting his PhD in psychology from the University of Southern California, Dr. Reuben Fine (1914-1993) opened up an office in Manhattan as a clinical psychologist. He was available for personality, diagnosis, and psychotherapy. He later founded the Creative Living Center in New York City. (source: *Chess Review*, Feb 1949, p. 36)

In 1949, Captain (later Major) Edmund Czapski (1917-1955) won the New Mexico State Championship. He won it again in 1950. He was a B-47 navigator and pilot in the Strategic Air Command (SAC) who flew out of Walker Air Force Base near Roswell, NM. During World War II, he earned 12 battle stars. He flew the last air mission of WW II, acting as navigator of the plane which escorted the Japanese generals on the way to sign the surrender. He died on active duty in 1955 in an aircraft accident. (source: *Chess Review*, Aug 1949, p. 230)

In 1949, *Schachmatny in the USSR* organized the first championship by mail in Russia, and permitted only 1,000 to enter. (source: *Chess Life*, May 20, 1949, p. 3)

In 1949, Lt. Col. Jose Joaquin Araiza (1900-1971) won the championship of México for the 15th consecutive time. (source: *Chess Review*, Jan 1950, p. 4)

From 1947 to 1949, an Australian Antarctic Expedition played chess by shortwave radio with a South African expedition on Marron Island, 1,400 miles distant. (source: *Chess Review*, Jan 1950, p. 5)

In 1950, Sammy Reshevsky, who was awarded the title of International Grandmaster that year, was invited to the Candidates tournament in Budapest. However, the U.S. State Department decreed that American citizens should not travel to Hungary. He was barred from attending by the U.S. State Department due to the Cold War. Reshevsky then conducted a national chess exhibition tour.

In 1950, there were 216,000 participants on the People's Chess Tournament in Romania. By the end of the year, it boiled down to 22 finalists. (source: *Chess Review*, Sep 1950, p. 263)

In June 1950, the USA won a border match with Canada, scoring 132 to 83. There were 215 participants along the 3,000 mile border. The match was supposed to

be played on 300 boards. Players in the Minneapolis-Winnipeg area were unable to play due to serious flooding in the area. (source: *Chess Life*, June 20, 1950, p. 1)

In August 1950, six players, returning from the US Open in Detroit, were injured in a car accident that could have killed them. Their car overturned on a rain-soaked road. The newly crowned US Open champion Arthur Bisguier suffered a broken rib and a head gash. Larry Evans was very badly bruised and was hospitalized. Walter Shipman had his leg in a cast for an injured ankle, Kit Crittenden suffered a fractured collar-bone. (source: *Chess Life*, Aug 5, 1950, p. 1)

In 1950, Walter Bjornson, a chess player in Vancouver, British Columbia, was arrested for assault after cutting his chess opponent in the arm with a knife after he lost a chess game.

In 1950, Miguel Najdorf set a new record for simultaneous play. At Sao Paulo, Brazil, he played 250 boards, winning 226 games, drawing 15, and losing 9. The exhibition lasted *11 hours and drew 2,000 spectators. The event was financed by the newspaper Gazeta Exportiva.* (source: *Chess Life*, Oct 5, 1950, p. 1)

In 1950, the first USCF rating system was published. The top players were Reuben Fine (2817), S. Reshevsky (2734), A. Kevitz (2610), Arthur Dake (2598), Arnold Denker (2575), Isaac Kashdan (2574), and I.A. Horowitz (2558). (source: *Chess Life*, Nov 20, 1950, p. 3)

The London Terrace Chess Club in New York was the only penthouse chess Club in the world. This was an apartment complex in the Chelsea area of Manhattan. (source: *Chess Life*, Dec 20, 1950, p. 3)

On January 17, 1951 Bobby Fischer, age 7, played a game against Senior Master and U.S. Speed Chess Champion Dr. Max Pavey, who was giving a simultaneous exhibition at the Grand Army Plaza Library in Brooklyn. Bobby lost in 15 minutes (he lost a Queen) and burst into tears when he lost the game. Another player, Edmar Mednis (1937-2002), age 14, also participated in this simul and drew.

Pavey took on 13 players that evening. Fischer later admitted that his loss to Pavey had a great effect in motivating him to get better at chess. The January 18, 1951 issue of the *Brooklyn Eagle* said this about the exhibition. In his exhibition at

the library, Pavey played 13 games with different opponents without losing one. He drew two games against Edmar Mednis, a junior member of the Marshall Chess Club, and Sylvan Katske. The other 11, including eight-year-old (sic) Bobby Fischer, were defeated. Max Pavey's 1951 USCF rating was 2442 (#15 in the US and about #90 in the world). Watching in the crowd was Carmine Domenico Nigro (1910-2001), president of the Brooklyn Chess and Checkers Club, located in the old Brooklyn Academy of Music. After the game, Carmine (rated 2028) went up to Regina and Bobby and invited Bobby to join his club. He told Regina Fischer, Bobby's mother, that Bobby would not have to pay any membership dues. At the time, Nigro was teaching chess to his son, William, and offered to tutor Bobby Fischer as well. William was uninterested in chess, and Carmine increased William's allowance if William agreed to take a lesson in chess. Bobby couldn't wait to have a lesson every Saturday and became absorbed in the game. William was slightly younger than Bobby. The very next evening, Regina took Bobby to the Brooklyn Chess Club, headed by Carmine Nigro. Bobby, age 7 (but looked 5), was the first child permitted to join the Brooklyn Chess Club (there were also no women chess members). On that first night, Bobby lost every game at the club. Despite his losses, Bobby continued to show up at the Brooklyn Chess Club. (source: *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, Jan 18, 1951, pages 23 and 29)

On March 2, 1951, James Bolton (1928-2004), 22, was arrested in Connecticut's first military draft evasion case under the new Selective Service Act after the outbreak of the Korean War. He testified he believed the law was unconstitutional and lost. He was sentenced to one year and one day in jail. Bolton was the winner of the 1950 New England chess championship. He won the Connecticut State Championship in 1953, 1957, and 1966. (source: *Bridgeport, Connecticut Telegram*, March 3, 1951 and June 5, 1951, and *New York Times*, March 4, 1951, p. 60)

In 1951, the Southern Chess Administration (SCA) was split on the policy of allowing blacks to play in their tournaments. An SCA organization in Asheville, NC allowed blacks to play chess in their clubs and events. An SCA organization in Tampa favored a restrictive policy designed to exclude blacks. Each SCA organization claimed to be acting legally and officially for the SCA. (source: *Chess Review*, July 1951, p. 196)

In 1951, a new record for rapid transit blindfold play was set by George Koltanowski in San Francisco when he played 50 opponents consecutively at a speed of 10 seconds a move. After 8 hours and 45 minutes, he won 43, drew 5, and lost 2. (source: *Chess Review*, Jan 1952, p. 6)

In 1951, Cecil John Seddon Purdy (1906-1979) won the Australian championship. In the same year, John S. Purdy (1835-2011), the son of C.J.S. Purdy, won the Australian Junior Championship. This is the first time that the Senior and Junior National Chess Championships have been held simultaneously by father and son. In 1955, John S. Purdy won the Australian Championship at age 19, the youngest ever to win the Australian Championship. (sources: *Chess Life*, Mar 5, 1951, p. 1 and Feb 5, 1955, p. 1)

The Polish chess master Akiba Rubinstein (1880-1951) and his family survived the Nazi occupation in Belgium by hiding in a sanitarium for more than four years. He was Jewish. He spent the last 29 years of his life living at home with his family and in a sanatorium because of his severe mental illness. (source: *Chess Review*, Mar 1948, p. 1)

In March 1951, the second USCF rating list was published. The top active players were Reuben Fine (2817), Sam Reshevsky (2734), Arthur Dake (2598), and I.A. Horowitz (2558). (source: *Chess Life*, Mar 5, 1951, p. 3)

In Oct 1951, the third USCF rating list was published. The top active players were Sam Reshevsky (2747), Reuben Fine (2711), I. A. Horowitz (2565), Larry Evans (2554), Arthur Dake (2539), and Arnold Denker (2504). (source: *Chess Life*, Oct 5, 1951, p. 3)

In 1952, there were only 1,127 USCF members and the USCF was almost bankrupt with a \$6,000 debt. In December 1954, there were 2,327 USCF members. In 1956, there were 2,046 USCF members. (source: *Chess Life*, Mar 5, 1957, p. 3)

In February-March, 1952, there was an international chess tournament in Havana full of tragedy. During the event, there was a revolution in Cuba. The President who sponsored the tournament was deposed. The Mexican entrants were recalled by their government. The Cuban chess champion, Juan Quesada, age 40,

died of a heart attack during the event on March 14. His funeral was attended by all the masters participating in the tournament. Reshevsky and Najdorf tied for 1st, each winning \$2,000. (source: *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, March 21, 1952)

In 1952, an anonymous benefactor donated \$38,000 for the express purpose of protecting the chess players in Central Park from the elements. Central Park had 16 cement chess tables and benches. (source: *Chess Life*, Jan 5, 1952, p. 2)

In 1952, Raymond McGill, an African-American, applied in person for membership in the Chicago Chess and Checkers Club. His cash for membership dues was rejected and he was asked to file a written application for membership, which White people did not have to do. (source: *Chess Life*, Feb 20, 1952, p. 2)

In 1952, the USCF had 1,100 members. By 1955, it had doubled to 2,300 members. (source: *Chess Life*, July 20, 1955, p. 3)

In 1952, the Correspondence Chess League of America (CCLA) had a membership of over 1,200 active members – its largest membership since the formation of the CCLA in 1909. (source: *Chess Life*, Mar 5, 1952, p. 2)

In March 1952, the fourth USCF rating was published. The top active players were Sam Reshevsky (2734), Reuben Fine (2676), Larry Evans (2660), I. A. Horowitz (2545), Arthur Dake (2510), Arnold Denker (2504), and Max Pavey (2502). (source: *Chess Life*, Mar 5, 1952, p. 3)

In 1952, there were 1,127 USCF members. In 1959, there were 3,820 members. In 1969, there were 13,000 members in the USCF. By late 1972, there were 34,000 members. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Nov 1972, p. 671)

In March 1952, chess master Pal Benko (1928-2019) was arrested and imprisoned for 16 months in a Hungarian concentration camp for trying to escape from East Berlin and defect to the West. He was accused of being an American spy. When they searched his apartment, they found mail devoted to his postal chess games. The police assumed that the notation was secret code, and they demanded to know how to break the code.

In 1952, Sammy Reshevsky visited 20 cities from coast to coast. He played over 600 games in simultaneous exhibitions and only lost twice. At simultaneous exhibition, he won 24 and drew 8. The exhibition was attended by many film celebrities, including Humphrey Bogart and Walter Slezak. The event was sponsored by MGM producer and director, G. Reinhart. (source: *Chess Review*, Mar 1952, p. 67)

In 1952, there were 1,127 USCF members. In 1959, there were 3,820 members. In 1969, there were 13,000 members in the USCF. By late 1972, there were 34,000 members. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Nov 1972, p. 671)

In 1952, the U.S. Department of State prepared a film for Central European distribution on cultural aspects of life in Greenwich Village. They chose the Marshall Chess Club as one of the Village's chief centers of intellectual activity. (source: *Chess Review*, Oct 1952, p. 294)

In 1952, Richard Bauer won the B class event in the Buffalo City Chess Championship while playing from an iron lung. He was stricken with polio in 1949. (source: *Chess Review*, Jan 1953, p. 7)

In 1953, the USCF awarded the 1954 U.S. Open to Hollywood, California. A month later, the USCF Tournament Committee rescinded that award. The reason for the change was a fundamental disagreement between the Committee and the Hollywood sponsors. The Hollywood plan was to have the Open in a number of sections. The sponsors were to raise a large prize fund so as to guarantee cash prizes and extra money for the Master Section to attract master chess players. Prizes for the other sections were to be trophies only. The plan was rejected by the USCF, and they awarded the site to New Orleans (won by Larry Evans). The U. S. Open in New Orleans banned black chess players from participating.

In 1953, Dutch Grandmaster Jan Donner (1927-1988) won the Cheltenham Open Chess Championship in England. Donner was so late for the prize-giving ceremony that the Mayor of Cheltenham gave the first prize to a local charity. (source: *Chess Review*, Oct 1953, p. 291)

In 1953, a new chess column, the first in Pittsburgh since 1916, made a weekly appearance in the Saturday issues of the *Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph*. It was

conducted by T. M. Cherington, who wrote the chess column until 1960. (source: *Chess Review*, Jan 1954, p. 6)

In April 1953, there were 47 chess columns in the US and Canada. (source: *Chess Life*, Apr 20, 1953, p. 1)

Clare Benedict (1870-1961) was an American writer and patron. She was a great-niece of James Fennimore Cooper. In 1953, she set up the Clare Benedict Cup as an annual international chess tournament of national teams (4-man team) from Western and Northern Europe. It was held until 1979 when the funds ran out. The tournament was usually held in Vevey, Switzerland. It started put with 6 countries. (source: *Chess Review*, June 1955, p. 163)

At the 1953 US Open in Milwaukee, Arthur Bisguier overturned a glass full of water while making a move. Spectators helped mop up the water on the table and chess board. After the table was dried, Bisguier gave a sigh of relief and quipped, "I was afraid the game would be called account of wet grounds." (source: *Chess Life*, Sep 5, 1953, p. 9)

In May, 1953, the first chess match over television was shown in London, England. It was limited to three sessions of 10 minutes each. (source: *La Crosse Tribune*, May 27, 1953)

In September 1953, a 5-page story called "History Was Changed in a Chess-Game" was published in Ripley's Believe It or Not Magazine #1, published by Harvey Comics. In the story, Thomas Paine (1737-1809), author of "The Rights of Man," was arrested in Paris for favoring the exile of the French King rather than execution. He has a last-minute reprieve from the French guillotine after his wife, disguised as a young poor man, defeats Maximilien Robespierre (1758-1794) in three games of chess at a tavern. The story was first published by Ripley in 1944

In December 1953, the top rated active USCF players were Reshevsky (2739), Robert Byrne (2601), George Kramer (2564), Donald Byrne (2544), Arnold Denker (2538), and Nicolas Rossolimo (2513). (source: *Chess Life*, Dec 20, 1953, p. 5)

From June 16 to June 24, 1954, a chess match was played between a team from the USSR and a team from the USA at the Hotel Roosevelt in Manhattan. It was the first time the Soviet chess team played on United States soil. The match drew 1,100 spectators, more than any other previous chess event in U.S. history. The match was refereed by Hans Kmoch (1894-1973). The USSR team won 20-12. Bobby Fischer, age 11, attended all four rounds and kept score of all the games.

In 1954, Dr. Edward Lasker (1885-1981), president of the Marshall Chess Club and an International Master, was elected Fellow of the New York Academy of Sciences. In 1921, he invented a mechanical breast pump, which saved many premature infants' lives. (source: *Chess Review*, Feb 1954, p. 37)

In 1954, California chess master wrote a letter to Governor Goodwin Knight, pleading for a stay of execution of Wesley Robert Wells. Wells, a black convict who was serving a life sentence for manslaughter, was charged with assault upon a prison guard and was sentenced to death. Gross based his appeal on the favorable impression of Wells he obtained as a result of correspondence chess with the prisoner. Wells was in prison for 46 years and won parole in 1974. (source: *Chess Review*, June 1954, p. 163)

In 1954, Leslie R. Sears, a Cape Cod chess enthusiast, was stricken with a heart attack during a match game. He had enough strength to whisper, "I get a draw, don't I?" just before taken to a hospital where he died. (source: *Chess Review*, June 1954, p. 164)

In March 1954, the first Canadian Rating List was published in the Canadian Chess Chat. It showed 4 Canadian masters (Anderson, Yanofsky, Bohatirchuk, and Vaitonis) and 24 Canadian experts. (source: *Chess Life*, May 20, 1954, p. 2)

Efim Geller (1925-1998) served as an aviator during World War II. In 1954, he was a Professor of Agriculture at the University of Odessa. He earned a doctorate in physical education. (source: *Chess Life*, July 5, 1954, p. 4)

In 1954, the International Correspondence Chess Federation (ICCF), officially recognized by FIDE, awarded the first ICCF Grandmaster titles to Purdy (Australia),

Malmgren (Sweden), Napolitano (Italy), and Barda (Norway). (source: *Chess Life*, Oct 5, 1954, p. 2)

In 1955, for the first time in its history, the USCF took punitive action against a USCF member by voting the expulsion of Norman T. Whitaker from membership. Whitaker attacked the character and integrity of USCF officials. Whitaker then initiated a civil against the USCF and sued the USCF for \$100,000 in damages. (sources: *Chess Life*, April 1955, p. 1 and May 20, 1955, p. 1)

In April 1955, the top active USCF players were Reshevsky (2766), Evans (2629), Robert Byrne (2621), Bisguier (2587) Donald Byrne (2587), and Herman Steiner (2507). The top women were Gisela Gresser (2116), Mona Karff (2040), and Sonja Graf-Stevenson (2006). ((source: *Chess Life*, Apr 20, 1955, p. 1)

In 1955, the *Brooklyn Eagle* newspaper ended publication. In 1893, it established a chess column conducted by Hermann Helms (1870-1963) from Oct 15, 1893 to April, 1955. (source: *Chess Life*, May 5, 1955, p. 2)

In 1955, Charles Kalme (1939-2002) of Philadelphia won the US Junior Championship (opened to players under 21). At the time, he became the youngest player to hold the junior title at age 15. He scored 9-1. The event was held at the Lincoln, Nebraska, YMCA. Larry Remlinger, age 13, won a trophy for the best player 14 and under, taking 2nd place. Bobby Fischer, age 12, gained custody of the special trophy for ranking player 12 or under. There were no cash prizes. Kalme was awarded a suit of clothes. Remlinger was awarded a Wittnauer wristwatch. Robert Cross, age 20, was given a Motorola portable radio for 3rd place. Ronald Gross, age 19, was given a leather briefcase for 4th place. Viktors Pupols was given a silver spoon, engraved with the Nebraska Capitol Building. Barton Lewis was given a painting. Fischer, rated 1830, took 20th in the 25 player event.. (source: *Chess Life*, Aug 5, 1955, p. 1)

In 1955, Nicolas Rossolimo (1910-1975) ties for 1st with Reshevsky, and won the US Open in Long Beach on tiebreak. First prize for Rossolimo was a Buick automobile. Reshevsky's prize was \$1,000 (\$11,000 in today's currency) (source: *Chess Life*, Sep 5, 1955, p. 1)

In 1955, Bobby Fischer was the youngest member of the Manhattan Chess Club. In late 1955, he gave a 12-board simultaneous exhibition at the club rooms, and won 9-0. His opponents were kids from the Yorkshire Chess Group. The Manhattan CC gave Fischer a watch for his efforts. (source: *Chess Life*, Dec 20, 1955, p. 2)

In 1955, Arthur Bisguier (1929-2017) returned from chess-playing in Europe, where he lost 70 pounds. He previously served in Europe from 1951 to 1953 while an enlisted man in the U.S. Army. (source: *Chess Life*, Dec 20, 1955, p. 2)

Prior to 1955, not a single chess book was published in China. From 1955 to 1963, 16 chess books have been compiled or translated by experts. In 1958, Soviet chess masters came to China for a three-week visit to teach and play chess. Three national chess tournaments were held between 1959 and 1963. (source: *Chess Life*, Oct 1963, p. 240)

On November 25, 1955, Herman Steiner (1905-1955) died of a heart attack two hours after finishing his 5th round game with William Addison (62-move draw) in the California State Championship, being played in Los Angeles. Steiner won the California State Championship in 1953 and 1954, and was defending his title. The event was cancelled by the wish of the other players as a gesture of sorrow. (source: *Chess Life*, Jan 5, 1956, p. 7)

In April, 1955, a group of Russian chess players, stationed at a weather station on an Arctic ice flow, defeated a chess team in Moscow in an extended match played by short wave radio. The Arctic team won, scoring 16.5-10.5 after 5 months of playing. (source: *Daily Reporter*, Dover, Ohio, Apr 21, 1955)

In 1955, Hans Lenz, a candidate for the Bundestag in Germany, campaigned with an election poster showing him seated at a chessboard with the caption, "Make a good move – vote for Hans Lenz!" Herr Lenz was elected. (source: *Chess Review*, Sep 1955, p. 263)

In April 1955, one of the wedding gifts for Prince Rainier III and Grace Kelly was an expensive antique chess set presented by employees of the Monte Carlo Casino. All of their children played chess. (source: *Chess Review*, May 1956, p. 133)

In January 1956, Bill Lombardy won the first Greater New York Open on tiebreak over Ariel Mengarini. The Class B Trophy went to 12-year-old Bobby Fischer, scoring 5-2. In the final round, he thought for a long time, then decided on a move, shifted a piece on the board, and punched the chess clock on the next table. The event was held at the Churchill Chess Club, a little-known club in midtown Manhattan. (source: *Chess Life*, Feb 5, 1956, p. 1)

In 1956, Bobby Fischer was a member of the Log Cabin Chess Club in Orange, New Jersey. In early 1956, the Log Cabin CC played a match in Clinton, NC, losing 3-4, and then traveled to Florida and had a match with the St. Petersburg Chess Club. The Log Cabin CC lost 1.5 to 5.5. The only winner was 12-year-old Fischer. The Log Cabin CC and Fischer eventually left Florida and traveled to Cuba to play chess. (source: *Chess Life*, Mar 5, 1956, p. 2)

In 1956, Louis Persinger (1887-1966), age 60, a famous violinist and active chess player, married one of his pupils who was only 18 years old. In 1941, he won the first USCF correspondence chess tournament. (source: *Chess Life*, Mar 5, 1956, p. 2)

In 1956, George Koltanowski gave a 60-board simul at San Quentin Prison in California. Kolty has been giving simuls at the prison every year since 1947. The San Quentin Chess Club has over 150 members and a large chess library. San Quentin edited their own chess magazine, *Chess Nuts*. (source: *Chess Life*, Apr 5, 1956, p. 3)

In June 1956, the top 2 players at the North Carolina Open Championship (Kit Crittenden and Don Burdick) won an all expenses paid fishing trip to the Gulf Stream at the height of the sailfish and king mackerel season. (sources: *Chess Life*, May 5, 1956, p. 2 and July 5, 1956, p. 1)

In May 1956, the top USCF players were Reshevsky (2663), Evans (2593), Robert Byrne (2590), Donald Byrne (2557), Rossolimo (2533), Bisguier (2529), and Kashdan (2525). Bobby Fischer's was 1726. (source: *Chess Life*, May 20, 1956, p. 2)

In May 1956, the U.S. Amateur Championship was held at Asbury Park, NJ. John Hudson won on tiebreak over Harry Lyman and J. Cotter. Bobby Fischer took 21st place out of 88 players. (source: *Chess Life*, June 20, 1956, p. 8)

Former Secretary of State John Foster Dulles (1888-1959) claimed that he was a college expert in chess strong enough to play blindfold, but curtailed his chess activity when he found the game getting too powerful a hold over him. He often bragged about his mastery of chess. (source: *Chess Review*, Sep 1955, p. 259)

Grace Wishard Alekhine (1876-1956) was Alexander Alekhine's fourth wife. She was born Grace Wishard on October 26, 1876 in New Jersey. Her parents were Emile Bernard Wishard (Jewish) and Marie Ida Smith. She later married Archibald Freeman, a British tea-planter in Ceylon. He died in the early 1930s. She took up chess and played Alexander Alekhine in a simultaneous exhibition in Tokyo in 1933. The two started a relationship shortly thereafter. They were married in March 1934 at Villefranche-sur-Mer, near Nice, France. The marriage certificate says her maiden name was Wishaar. She was 16 years older than Alekhine. It was his 4th marriage and may have been her 4th marriage as well. She owned a chateau in Saint Aubin-le-Cauf, a few miles southwest of Dieppe in Normandy, France. In 1936/37, she participated in a minor tournament at Hastings. Alexander Alekhine won the premier section and she took 3rd place in her section. He won 15 pounds for 1st place and she won 1 pound for 3rd place. She played in several Women's French chess championships. In 1944, she was the women's champion of Paris. During World War II, the Nazis took over their chateau and looted it. She moved to Paris. Alekhine was free to travel, but no exit visa was given to Grace. After World War II, she sold her chateau under American Embassy protection. She was in failing health and in her 70s. She spent her final years in her studio in Paris, but visited St. Ives, Cornwall, where she was a member of the local chess club. She later led the effort to get Alekhine's body transferred to the Cimetiere de Montparnasse in Paris. The USSR and French Chess Federation paid to transfer the remains from Portugal to Paris. She died in March 1956. Her grave spells her maiden name as Wishar. After she died, the notes in Alekhine's handwriting were allegedly found in her effects to prove he wrote the Nazi articles.

In 1956, Isaac Kashdan (1905-1985) appeared on Groucho Marx's *You Bet Your Life*. The episode aired February 9, 1956. Groucho called him "Mr. Ash Can"

throughout the show. Kashdan's partner was Helen Schwartz, the mother of Tony Curtis. Kashdan told Groucho that it was pretty hard to cheat in chess. Groucho responded, "If I can't cheat, forget it. The only fun I have in any game is cheating." They failed to win any money and did not say the secret word.

On June 13, 1956, 13-year-old Bobby Fischer (1943-2008) appeared with Arlene Francis (1907-2001) on "Home Show" over the NBC Network. It was his first appearance on TV. The "Home Show" was on TV from 1954 to 1957. (source: *Chess Review*, June 1956, p. 165)

In 1956, about 3,000 boys and girls played in the 17th Annual All-City Junior Chess Tournament in Milwaukee. At the time, it was the biggest American chess meet on record. Over 40,000 young people have played in this event during the past 16 years. (source: *Chess Review*, Sep 1956, p. 262)

In the June 1956 issue of *Playboy* magazine, there were several articles about chess. One article was Called "Checkmate" by Herman Leonard, and another article was called "A Short, Happy History of Chess" by Al Horowitz. It also had a short story by Loring Mandel (1928-2020) called the "Last Gambit." Another article was called "Five Ways to Improve Your Game" by Al Horowitz.

In December 1956, the University of Chicago won the U. S. Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship. It was the first time since 1921 that a college outside New York City has won this event. The first Intercollegiate team championship took place in 1892, won by Columbia University. (source: *Chess Review*, Feb 1957, p. 35)

In 1957, Samuel Reshevsky (1911-1992) played Donald Byrne (1930-1936) in a match in New York. In the first game of the match, Byrne's flag had fallen, and Reshevsky offered a draw. Byrne accepted, and the draw stood, because Reshevsky did not claim a loss on time after the flag fell before the game ended. In the second game, Byrne's flag fell again, and again Reshevsky did not notice it. Then Reshevsky's flag fell. Neither player noticed that both flags had fallen. However, Mrs. Reshevsky, sitting in the audience, remembering that it was important to claim a flag-fall, claimed it herself. Byrne pointed out that only the player on the move could claim a time forfeit. Since it was his move, he claimed the game himself. An appeals committee was organized to settle the dispute,

which Byrne objected to. The committee declared that the game was drawn. Byrne then walked out of the match, but returned later. He lost the match 7-3.

In 1957, the first Chinese Chess Championship ever held was won by Chang Fu-Kiang. 22 players participated. Chess was not listed as a competitive sport in China until 1956. In 1962, the Chess Association of China was formed. (source: *Chess Review*, Apr 1959, p. 101)

In 1957, Oxford University and Cambridge University drew their 7th varsity chess match encounter. Oxford led the total match points with 32 wins. Cambridge had 31 wins. There had been 12 draws. In 1953, Oxford was ahead for the first time since 1877. In 1972, Cambridge lead the series for the first time since 1951.

In 1957, Bobby Fischer won the U. S. Junior Chess Championship, held in San Francisco. He scored 8.5-0.5. Runner-up was Gil Ramirez, scoring 7.5-1.5. Fischer's reward was a trophy and a typewriter. Ramirez received a trophy and a portable radio. There were 33 players in the event. (source: *Chess Review*, Sep 1957. P. 260)

In 1957, at the Maryhill Museum of Art in Southwest Washington State exhibited about 100 rare and ancient chess sets. The event attracted 800 visitors, the largest attendance since the museum opened in 1940. (source: *Chess Review*, Dec 1957. P. 358)

In 1958, after 14-year-old Bobby Fischer won the U.S. Chess Championship, he took a vacation at the Grossinger Country Club in Grossinger, New York. He gave chess lessons for skiing instruction. In 1972, Fischer trained at Grossinger's Resort for the upcoming world chess championship. (source: *Chess Review*, Apr 1958, p. 102)

In May, 1958 Bobby Fischer, age 15, appeared on the television show *I've Got a Secret* and stumped the panel, which included Dick Clark (his secret was that he was U.S. chess champion). The made-up newspaper headline for Bobby was "Teen-Ager's Strategy Defeats all Newcomers." Dick Clark asked if what he did made people happy. Fischer responded, "It made me happy." Garry Moore asked him how long he had been playing chess. Fischer responded that he had been playing since he was six, but that he had not been playing seriously until age 9.

In 1959, Bobby Fischer was so popular in Yugoslavia that a chess club was named after him. (source: *Chess Review*, June 1959, p. 165)

In 1959, Walter Harris (1941-) became the first African-American chess master after his performance at the US Junior Chess Championship. In 1959, he was unable to get a hotel room where the US Open was being held in Omaha, Nebraska, because he was black. He later became an accomplished physicist.

In 1954, the Argentine Chess Federation called off the national chess tournament after a fist fight broke out between a chess player and the tournament director.

In 1955, an African-American chess player, William A. Scott, was refused to be allowed to play in the Georgia Open chess championship because he was black.

In 1955, 12-year-old Bobby Fischer placed 20th with a 5-5 score at the U.S. Junior Championship in Lincoln, Nebraska. In July 1956, 13-year-old Fischer won the 11th U.S. Junior Championship, held in Philadelphia with 28 participants. Fischer scored 8.5-1.5. He was the youngest player to win the U.S. Junior Championship. A few weeks later, he took 4th at the 57th U.S. Open in Oklahoma City. (source: *Chess Life*, July 20, 1956, p. 1)

In 1956, Chicago police were breaking up chess games in Lincoln Park on the mistaken assumption that the players were involved in illegal gambling. In 1957, chess players were welcome guest of Lincoln Park with their own new special \$90,000 clubhouse and concrete tables with permanent chessboards imbedded on their tops. The money was donated by the Hammon Organ Company. (source: *Chess Life*, June 20, 1957, p. 1)

In April, 1956, British chess champion Conel Hugh O'Donel Alexander (1909-1974) was invited to a chess tournament in Moscow. However, the British Foreign Office forbade him to go to Russia because "he knows too many secrets." Alexander was Britain's top decoding expert during World War II. (source: *Lubbock Evening Journal*, Apr 16, 1956)

In 1956, at the first round at the U.S. Open, the youngest player, Bobby Fischer (1943-2008), age 13, was paired with the oldest player, Albert M. Swank (1878-1958), age 78. Fischer won. During the U.S. Open, Fischer appeared on two TV programs and had good coverage by the Oklahoma City press. Fischer scored 8.5 – 3.5 without losing a single game. (sources: *Chess Life*, Aug 5, 1956, p. 1 and 3)

In 1956, Irene Vines of New Orleans became the first woman to be champion of Louisiana the second woman to hold a state title. In 1954, Adele Rivero Belcher won the state championship of Vermont. Her husband was a medical doctor. (source: *Chess Life*, Oct 5, 1956, p. 2)

Humphrey Bogart died in his sleep on January 14, 1957 at the age of 57. He had cancer of the esophagus. When he died, he had a chessboard next to his bed. He would play friends when they came by or analyzed chess games. Lauren Bacall said he was always an avid chess player to the very end.

In May 1957, the top players were Reshevsky (2648), Evans (2593), Robert Byrne (2590), Rossolimo (2533), and Kashdan (2525). Fischer was rated 2231 and rated 2298 in August 1957. There were 49 masters in the country. (source: *Chess Life*, May 5, 1957, p. 1)

In July 1957, Alexander Piotrowski was playing chess with Kazimierz Oslecki on the lawn on their jointly-owned house in Clapton, England. Osiecki captured Piotrowski's queen without saying "guard" when he threatened it on the previous move. Piotrowski told Osiecki to take the move back. Osiecki refused. That's when Piotrowski picked up a garden chair and hit Oslecki. Oslecki then picked up the wooden chess board and threw the board in Piotrowski's face. A more serious fight then broke out. Both players were then sent to the hospital with a fractured rib and assorted cuts and bruises. The case went to court in London. The magistrate observed that this was the first chess match in 2,000 years to send both participants to the hospital. He declared the match to be a draw and dismissed both charges. (source: *The Ottawa Journal*, July 18, 1957)

In August 1957, Bobby Fischer won the 58th US Open in Cleveland on tiebreak over Arthur Bisguier, becoming the youngest player to win the event. He is the

only player to hold both the US Open and US Junior championship at the same time. (source: *Chess Life*, Sep 5, 1957, 1957, p. 1)

On Sep 4, 1957, Max Pavey (1918-1957) died at the age of 39 at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York. He died of leukemia with a suspicion of radium poisoning. He was a chemist and plant supervisor at the Canadian Radium and Uranium Corporation in Mt. Kisco, New York. A month after Pavey's death, the company pleaded guilty of injuring Pavey. When he died, his wife became chairman of the USCF International Affairs Committee. (source: *Chess Life*, Sep 20, 1957, p. 4)

In 1957, International Master Pal Benko (1928-2019) defected from Hungary following his participation in the World Student Team Championship in Reykjavik, Iceland. He was captain and first-board player of the Hungarian student team. After the tournament he asked Icelandic authorities for political asylum until he could obtain a visa to come to the United States. In 1948, he won the chess championship of Hungary. In March 1952, he attempted to defect to the American embassy in West Berlin during a chess tournament in East Berlin. He remained imprisoned for 16 months. He was not allowed to leave Hungary for another 4 years. He arrived in New York on Oct 11, 1957. (sources: *Chess Life*, Nov 5, 1957, p. 2)

In 1957, Robert Scrivener (1881-1969) won the Alabama Open chess championship at age 76. He also won the Louisiana State Chess Championship. In 1961, he won the Mississippi State Championship at the age of 80, the oldest state chess champion. He served three times as President of the Western Chess Association, first elected in 1913. He was a Life Director of the Southern Chess Association (SCA).

In 1957, there were about 5,000 active tournament chess players in the U.S. and 6 Grandmasters. In the USSR, there were about 1 million active tournament chess players and 18 Grandmasters. . (source: *Chess Life*, Dec 20, 1957, p. 3)

In 1958, a chess program (NSS) beat a human player for the first time. The human player was a secretary who was taught how to play chess one hour before her game with the computer. The computer program was played on an IBM 704. The computer displayed a level of chess-playing expertise greater than an adult human could gain from one hour of chess instruction.

In 1958, the top USCF players were Reshevsky (2713), Fischer (2626), Evans (2591), R. Byrne (2538), and Lombardy (2499). (source: *Chess Life*, Mar 5, 1958, p. 5)

On February 20, 1959, Melvin Haifetz, the proprietor of the Humoresque Coffee Shop, contending several detective raids interrupted the chess-playing of his patrons, filed a \$25,000 damage suit against the police and the city of Philadelphia. He claimed in U.S. district court action that his business was permanently damaged because customers now were afraid to come in for fear they may be arrested for playing chess. At least 34 chess players were arrested, fined for disorderly conduct and fined \$12.50. The police under the command of Captain Frank Rizzo (120-1991) conducted the raids on grounds the neighbors of the coffee shop complained of too much noise. Police also suspected drugs and interracial mixing. (source: *York, PA Gazette and Daily*, Feb 20, 1959)

In 1959, the top chess players were Reshevsky (2693), Fischer (2636), Sherwin (2511), Lombardy (2509), Bisguier (2506), Evans (2506), and D. Byrne (2504). (source: *Chess Life*, Feb 5, 1959, p. 1)

Robin Ault (1941-1994) was the first person to win the U.S. Junior Championship three times in a row (1959, 1960, 1961). After the 1958 U.S. Junior Championship, the USCF decided to allow the U.S. Junior Champion seeded in the U.S. Championship. He was invited to the 1959-1960 U.S. Championship, but lost all 11 games. Bobby Fischer won the event for the 3rd time in a row. Ault also took last place in the blitz championship, won by Benko. Fischer took 3rd place. The USCF never seeded a junior champion again. His older brother, Leslie, won the 1960 U.S. National Intercollegiate Chess Championship. Robin earned a PhD and was a college professor and computer software engineer.

In the 1959-60 U.S. Chess Championship, Reshevsky took 3rd place, behind Fischer and Robert Byrne. This was the first time since 1936 that Reshevsky finished lower than second. He had played in 9 U.S. Chess Championships, winning 5 times. (source: *Chess Life*, Feb 5, 1960, p. 1)

On January 7, 1960, Frederick Borders, who won acclaim on British TV as a human calculating machine, died of a heart attack while trying to solve a chess puzzle. He

was 62. He was found by his wife dead in a chair with a chess puzzle and a chess board in front of him. Borders won \$3,000 by answering mental arithmetic teasers in a television quiz show in 1959. (source: *The Berkshire Eagle*, Jan 9, 1960)

In 1960, the top active USCF players were Fischer (2641), Reshevsky 2632), Robert Byrne (2535), Benko (2515), and Bisguier (2502). (source: *Chess Life*, Aug 5, 1960, p. 2 and Dec 20, 1960, p. 2)

In 1960, Hungarian chess master Janos Flesch (1933-1983) broke a world record for playing simultaneous blindfold games. In Budapest, he played 52 games, winning 31, losing 3, and drawing 18. However, he was allowed to consult score sheets of the games. The previous title holder was Miguel Najdorf, who played 45 games in 1947 in Sao Paulo. (source: *Chess Life*, Jan 1961, p. 28)

On June 1 1960, a visiting seaman, Michael I. George, lost a chess game to free-lance writer Loren Disney at Chumley's Greenwich Village restaurant. George then argued the game with free-lancer Clinton Curtis, who was watching the game. Curtis struck George. George struck back, but had a beer glass in his hand. The glass shattered, cutting Curtis' throat, and Curtis died. He was 43. (source: *Chess Review*, July 1960, p. 197)

In 1960, Anthony Quinn brought a chess set on location while the film, "Guns of Navarone," was being shot in Greece. He played chess against Gregory Peck, David Niven, Stanley Baker, Anthony Quail, and James Darren. He said that James Darren was the best player of all the stars he played chess with. (source: *Chess Review*, July 1960, p. 199)

In 1960, there were 1,281 entries in the Liverpool Junior Congress, the largest number of players ever gathered in England up to that time. Over 300 prizes were distributed. (source: *Chess Review*, Aug 1960, p. 231)

In October 1960, Mikhail Tal was driving to the 14th Chess Olympiad in Leipzig, Germany when he got into a car accident. He was unable to play the first 3 rounds, but when he did show up to play, he played board 1 for the USSR. He won 8 and drew 6 games and only lost the final round, to Englishman Jonathan Penrose. That cost him the gold medal for board 1, and he settled for silver.

In 1960, a sub-zonal chess tournament at Madras, India invited players from Israel, Mongolia, Iran, the Philippines, and India. Only one visitor showed up, Momo of Mongolia. He found himself facing only one opponent, Manuel Aaron of India. The two had a short match and Aaron won 3-1. (source: *Chess Review*, Nov 1960, p. 323)

In 1960, chess was being played by shortwave radio in Antarctica by American, New Zealanders, and Russians. American on Ross Island and New Zealanders at Scott Base competed with Russian at Mirny in East Antarctica and Lazarev in Queen Maud Land. Distances separating the men stretch thousands of miles. (source: *Chess Review*, Nov 1960, p. 323)

In 1960, a Venezuela newspaper wrote about Bobby Fischer, "To be a two-time chess champion of the U.S. at the age of 18 is something that verges on the unbelievable." All the more so, since Fischer was actually a 3-time U.S. champion at 17. (source: *Chess Review*, Nov 1960, p. 327)

In 1960-1961, a chess game played by shortwave radio took place in Antarctica. The game was played between American Lt. Cdr John McNearney at McMurdo Sound and an unknown Russian at Mirny base, 1,600 miles away. The game was set up with the aid of a Soviet glaciologist who wintered at the American base. (source: *Chess Life*, Jan 1961, p. 29)

In January, 1961, Clifford Antcliff, a lawyer from Indiana, wondered why there was a delay in the chess game he was conducting by mail with an unknown chess player in Massachusetts. He later discovered his adversary was an inmate of a penal institution and had been thrown in solitary confinement for trying to escape. Antcliff was later criminally convicted of stealing funds belonging to his clients. (source: High Point, NC *Enterprise*, Jan 17, 1961)

In 1961, the top chess players were Fischer (2660), Lombardy (2562), Reshevsky (2560), Benko (2527), Bisguier (2507), and Weinstein (2501). (sources: *Chess Life*, April 1961, p. 109 and Dec 1961, p. 334)

In 1961, Jacqueline Rothschild Piatigorsky (1911-2012), wife of renowned cellist, Gregor Piatigorsky, was elected President of the Herman Steiner Chess Club in Los

Angeles. The designer of the club, one of the best equipped and most attractive chess clubs in the country, was Frank Lloyd Wright. She was the highest rated female chess player in California, and ranked #2 in the United States. In 1957, she represented the United States in the first Women's Chess Olympiad in Emmen, Netherlands, winning a bronze medal on board 2. (source: *Chess Life*, April 1961, p. 116)

In 1961, 300,000 players participated in the collective farmers' tournament of the Soviet Union. Also, over 700,000 players took part in a chess tournament honoring Mikhail Chigorin. (source: *Chess Life*, April 1961, p. 117)

In 1961, at a tri-state gathering of 3,000 Explorer Scouts, chess was amongst its program of activities. It led the field in individual participation, with 300 boys competing. Next in popularity was bowling with 175 participants. (source: *Chess Life*, June 1961, p. 175)

In August 1961, Pal Benko won the U.S. Open in San Francisco with a record-breaking score of 11-1. He won 10 and drew 2. His score was the highest ever achieved in the 63 years of the U.S. Open. The U.S. Open had a record field of 198 players. (source: *Chess Life*, Oct 1961, p. 278)

In December 1961, the first USCF-rated tournament ever held aboard a Navy ship occurred on the USS Intrepid. It was won by SN John Mauer with a perfect score of 10-0. The event was organized by Navy Chaplain Randall Rogers. The ship was involved in the Battle of Leyte Gulf during World War II. She was a recovery ship for a Mercury and Gemini space mission. (source: *Chess Life*, March 1962, p. 57)

In 1961, Ernst Gruenfeld (1893-1962), age 67, was playing in a chess tournament at Beverwijk in the Netherlands. Gruenfeld had lost a leg when in his early childhood and had an artificial leg. Despite his age, and this handicap, he spurned the organizers' offer of a car, and insisted on walking the mile or so from where he was staying to the chess tournament hall each afternoon. On one particular day, he set off, but fell down in the road, and his wooden leg came off and fell into a ditch! A distressed Gruenfeld managed to get to a phone booth and ring the organizers. The organizers contacted Max Euwe, who came on the line. Hearing of Gruenfeld's plight, he jumped into a car, and a few minutes later, he managed to rescue Gruenfeld and his wooden leg and take him back to the house

he was staying at. After a refreshing cup of coffee and a few minutes rest, Gruenfeld was re-united with his artificial leg and driven to the tournament hall. Unfortunately, he faced the East German GM Wolfgang Uhlmann that day, and despite having White, the trauma took its toll on him. He lost in just 21 moves.

In 1961, artist Marcel Duchamp (1887-1968) devoted a year to the acquisition of gifts from artists, dealers, and collectors for the purpose of auctioning them on behalf of the American Chess Foundations. The proceeds went to American chess to support national and international chess events. Include in the list of distinguished patrons of the auction was Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962). Duchamp raised over \$30,000 for chess. (source: *Chess Review*, June 1961, p. 164)

In 1962, Ernest Millard of the *New York Times* wrote an open letter to President John F. Kennedy, suggesting that some presidential recognition of Bobby Fischer was in order. He wrote, "It will generate respect for our nation even as did the flight of Colonel Glenn." (source: *Chess Review*, Apr 1962, p. 99)

In 1962, grandmaster Nicolas Rossolimo (1910-1975) cut a long-playing record of 14 French and Russian folk songs that he sung. Besides working as a singer, he was a bellhop, a taxi driver, played the accordion, and ran a chess studio to support himself. (source: *Chess Review*, Apr 1962, p. 100)

In 1962, the US State Department made an attempt to find someone with sufficient skill and sufficient government or social rank to play chess with the new Soviet ambassador to the United States, Anatoly Dobrynin (1919-2010). As of July, 1962, the State Department did not find their ideal opponent for the ambassador. If their chess was good enough, their rank was too low; and if their rank was good enough, their skill in chess was not acceptable. (source: Lancaster, Ohio *Eagle-Gazette*, Jul 28, 1962)

On February 8, 1962, Francis Gary Powers (1929-1977) was released from a Russian prison after being shot down in his U2 aircraft on May 1, 1960. He spent much of his time in prison playing chess with fellow prisoners. The wreckage of the U-2 spy plane was later exhibited in the chess pavilion at Gorki Park. (source: *Long Beach Independent Press-Telegram*, Feb 11, 1962)

In 1962, the Japan Chess Federation had its first international chess tournament. It was played in Yokohama and won by Romeo Alvarez of the Philippines. There were 45 entries, including 8 women. (source: *Chess Life*, March 1962, p. 59)

In 1962, there were 62 grandmasters in the world. The USSR had 20. USA had 9 (Reshevsky, Fine, Rossolimo, Kashdan, Bisguier, Evans, Fischer, Benko, and Lombardy). Yugoslavia had 7. Argentina had 6. West Germany had 3. Netherlands, Austria, and Sweden had 2. (source: *Chess Life*, July 1962, p. 155)

In 1962, the top USCF players were Fischer (2687), Benko (2608), Reshevsky (2597), Evans (2568), Lombardy (2565), Robert Byrne (2529), Bisguier (2503), and Donald Byrne (2503). (sources: *Chess Life*, Aug 1962, p. 181 and Dec 1962, p. 285)

On October 25, 1962, chess master (rated over 2400) Abe Turner (1924-1962) was stabbed to death at the *Chess Review* headquarters where he worked as a clerk. His 280 pound, 5 foot 7 inch body was found stuffed in an 8x10 safe in the basement. He was killed by Theodore Smith who confessed that "the Secret Service ordered me to do it. He was a Communist spy." Smith had been in a mental asylum and was released in 1959. Smith was a clerk-typist employed by *Chess Review*. In tournaments, Turner had a plus score against Fischer and Bisguier, and an even score against Larry Evans. Abe learned chess in a naval hospital from shrapnel wounds inflicted during World War II. (source: *Chess Life*, Dec 1962, p. 281)

In 1963, the top USCF players were Fischer (2674), Reshevsky (2611), Benko (2576), Lombardy (2565), Evans (2553), Bisguier (2529), Robert Byrne (2525), Donald Byrne (2519), and Saidy (2512). (sources: *Chess Life*, Apr 1963, p. 93 and Oct 1963, p. 251)

In April 1963, Mrs. Edvige Ruinstein, the wife of a chessplayer in Milan, Italy was granted a separation (there was no divorce in Italy) from her husband, Alfredo Ruinstein, age 43, on the grounds that he was so obsessed with chess that he refused to work and support their two children. The court ordered the husband to pay 25,000 lire monthly allowance. The court decision read, "Playing chess would be all right if at the same time he would also have looked after his family's needs." (source: *Delaware County Daily Times*, Apr 13, 1963)

In 1963, Yuri Averbach predicted that in 35 years, there would be a machine perfect enough to compete with grandmaster. Vasily Smyslov said that a machine could not play better than a man. David Bronstein said that by the year 2000 there would be separate championships for men and machines. (source: *Chess Life*, June 1963, p. 145)

In July 1963, Bobby Fischer competed in his first weekend Swiss chess tournament since 1957. He won the Western Open in Bay City, Michigan with the score of 7.5-0.5. He played all of his games at almost blitz speed. Before and after his games, he signed dozens of autographs and played five-minute games until all hours of the night. He also offered advice and analyzed games to players after their games. He said that the tournament conditions were excellent, saying that the lighting and conditions of play were superior to many of the international events in which he competed. (source: *Chess Life*, Aug 1963, p. 163)

In April, 1963, President Kennedy met a 12-year-old named Levi Frazier while being introduced to some members of the Washington Boys Club. Levi, an African-American, was also an expert chess player. Kennedy told the boy, "How about coming over to the White House and teaching me to play chess? I've never learned." (source: Eau Claire *Daily Telegram*, Apr 12, 1963)

Hermann Helms (1870-1963) wrote a chess column for 62 years, from 1893 to 1955, in the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*. This is the record for the longest-running uninterrupted chess column under the same authorship. He published the *American Chess Bulletin* from 1904 to 1963, a period of 59 years. He also wrote weekly chess columns in the *New York World Telegram*, the *Sun*, and the *New York Times*. He died in Brooklyn, one day after he reached his 93rd birthday. He was instrumental in directing Bobby Fischer to the Brooklyn Chess Club. He won the New York State championship in 1906 and 1925. He was the first to broadcast chess games over the radio (WNYC).

In 1964, the top USCF players were Fischer (2734), Reshevsky (2611), Benko (2594), Evans (2582), Lombardy (2575), Robert Byrne (2545), Saidy (2531), Bisguier (2507), and Donald Byrne (2500). (sources: *Chess Life*, Jan 1964, p. 16 and Mar 1964, p. 69)

In 1964, General David Shoup (1904-1983) accepted the role of Honorary President of the American Chess Foundation. He had been the Commandant of the Marine Corps, where he served more than 37 years of active duty. He was awarded the Medal of Honor in World War II. He was an avid chess player and did much to support and promote Armed Forces chess. (source: *Chess Life*, Feb 1964, p. 46)

In 1964 the Whirlpool Corporation's float in the St. Paul Winter Carnival Grand Parade won top award. The float was a huge chessboard lavishly decorated with pawns and pieces. (source: *Chess Review*, May 1964, p. 133)

In 1964, the Swedish geographical team in Antarctica tried a chess match with a chess team in Australia, played by shortwave radio. Play had to be abandoned because of jamming by the radio of Soviet Union Antarctica group. (source: *Chess Review*, Oct 1964, p. 295)

Boris Yegorov (1937-1994) was a Soviet physician-cosmonaut and avid chess player. He was the first physician to make a flight. He played chess during his time off from training and just before his space flight on Voskhod 1 in October 1964. (source: *Chess Life*, Nov 1964, p. 281)

On October 12, 1964, Russia launched Voskhod I, the first space flight to carry more than one crewman in orbit. It launched three cosmonauts and it was the first flight without the use of spacesuits (there was no room). The command pilot was Vladimir Komarov. The medical doctor was Boris Yegorov, a chess player. The engineer, Konstantin Feoktistov (1926-2009), was described as a chess-playing intellectual. He was the first civilian and the first chess expert to make a space flight. Other cosmonauts that were chess players include Georgi Beregovoy (1921-1995), Boris Volynov (1934-), Georgy Shonin (1935-1997), Valery Kubasov (1935-2014), Pyotr Kolodin (1930-), Vladislav Volkov (1935-1971), Alexey Leonov (1934-), and Viktor Patsayev (1933-1971). (source: *Albuquerque Journal*, Oct 13, 1964)

In 1964, there was no U.S. Chess Championship. Heavy expenses in the international area during the past 12 months made fund-raising for this event too difficult to support. (source: *Chess Life*, Nov 1964, p. 284)

On March 27, 1964, a major earthquake destroyed much of Anchorage, Alaska, and destroyed the Willard Fiske Chess Club. This put an end to Alaska chess for a considerable period. In March 1965, a new chess club, the Anchorage Chess Rookery, was formed as a successor of the old chess club. (source: *Chess Life*, March 1965, p. 63)

Sonja Graf-Stevenson (1908-1965) was a German and American chess player. She was the reigning U.S. Women's Chess Champion when she died of a liver ailment. She also won it in 1957. In 1939, she was prevented, by an order signed by Josef Goebbels, Nazi Minister of Propaganda, from representing Germany in the 1939 Chess Olympiad in Buenos Aires. However, she went to Buenos Aires as a stateless person under the banner of "Liberty" to play in the Women's World Chess Championship. She remained in Argentina until 1945, and then came to the U.S. and to U.S. citizenship. She spoke four languages and worked for a time as a translator. (source: *Chess Life*, March 1965, p. 51)

On January 11, 1965, three Ohio State University students claimed the world endurance record for chess players. Karl Stechle, Carl Jackman, and Dr. John Phythyon (1942-2022) stayed at the chess board for 58 straight hours. (source: *Dover, Ohio Daily Reporter*, Jan 11, 1965)

Elliott Forry Laucks (1898-1965) was the founder and patron of the Log Cabin Chess Club in West Orange, New Jersey. He was a millionaire. He founded the club in 1934. He sometimes wore a swastika on his lapel and had Nazi flags in his home. He was a Life Director of the USCF. In 1945, his club won the Metropolitan Chess League in New York City. In 1965, he participated in the U.S. Open chess tournament in Puerto Rico. He played the first 6 rounds and seemed to be in good health. After the 6th round he went on a tour of San Juan. He then collapsed suddenly and was pronounced dead upon his arrival to a nearby hospital. He played in every US Open from 1950 to 1963, with his last appearance in 1965. (source: *Chess Life*, Aug 1965, p. 163)

In 1965, over 2,000 youngsters under 17 competed in the first city-wide chess tournament of the New York City Parks Department. It was won by 16-year-old Bill Smith, who had been playing chess for only 6 months. (source: *Chess Life*, Aug 1965, p. 174)

In July 1965, the first chess tournament ever held in Greenland was the championship of Thule Air Base. The winner was Tim Moore who scored a perfect 5-0. (source: *Chess Life*, Aug 1965, p. 174)

In 1965, the top USCF players were Fischer (2734), Reshevsky (2587), Lombardy (2560), Robert Byrne (2546), Saidy (2531), Benko (2516), Evans (2512) and Addison (2501). (source: *Chess Life*, Jan 1965, p. 16)

In 1965, former world chess champion Mikhail Botvinnik was seeded in the 1965 Candidates tournament, but declined to participate. Resentful that FIDE no longer allowed a return match (the “anti-Botvinnik” law), Botvinnik made no attempt to enter the next world championship cycle and said it was too tiring.

In 1965, a team representing the Canterbury Chess Club in Christchurch, New Zealand played a radio-telephone match with American scientists and military men at McMurdo Station, Antarctica, 2,400 miles away. The Canterbury CC team won 4.5-2.5. (source: *Chess Review*, July 1965, p. 195)

In 1965, there were only 4 masters (2300 or better) in Canada. They were Yanofsky (2508), Anderson (2389), Vranesic (2363), and Joyner (2345). There were 13 players rated between 2100 and 2299. (source: *Chess Review*, Nov 1965. P. 325)

In 1965, prominent players were asked for their opinion of what the final standings of the U.S. chess championship would be. Artist Marcel Duchamp turned in the most accurate prognostications. He was rewarded with two bottles of rare Scotch. (source: *Chess Review*, March 1966, p. 67)

On August 7, 1966, Robin Smith, age 24, was a prisoner of the Indiana Reformatory. He was allowed to play chess at the Indiana University Medical Center, along with three other convicts under the supervision of a guard. Smith escaped right after losing a game of chess. The guard was so engrossed in the chess tournament that he failed to keep an eye on Smith. Smith was sentenced in 1965 to 10-25 years for robbery. (source: *Chess Review*, Oct 1966, p. 295)

In October 1966, the U.S. chess team was finally cleared to play in the Chess Olympiad in Havana, Cuba. Their U.S. passports were not being cleared for Cuba. However, at the last minute, the U.S. State Department declared it would authorize the team's trip so long as it was assured the members were genuine chess players. (source: *Chess Review*, Nov 1966, p. 323)

In December 1966, Dutch chess champion Jan Hein Donner (1927-1988) created a Christmas card with the slogan "Johnson Murderer." The card was entered at an auction of art works by amateurs in Amsterdam. Authorities of the auction later removed from public sale the Christmas card. The Christmas card was made in reference to U.S. policy in Vietnam. The Christmas card was later sold after the official auction for \$75. (source: San Rafael *Daily Independent Journal*, Dec 24, 1966)

In 1966, the top USCF players were Fischer (2713), Reshevsky (2616), Robert Byrne (2568), Lombardy (2563), Evans (2556), Benko (2542), and Addison (2535). (sources: *Chess Life*, Dec 1966, p. 314)

In 1966, a course in chess history and theory was introduced for the first time at Moscow University. Over 93,000 people play chess in Moscow alone. The lectures drew over 2,000 students. Among the first lecturers were Petrosian, Korchnoi, Bronstein, Tal, Kotov, and Botvinnik. Botvinnik's lecture was on cybernetics and chess. (source: *Chess Life*, March 1966, p.63)

In 1966, the first Greater New York school championships drew a record 253 players from 112 schools in the New York metropolitan area. The high school winners were Sal Matera, Alan Kussack, and Gary Pokoik in a 3-way tie. (source: *Chess Life*, May 1966, p. 120)

On August 7, 1966, Robin Smith, age 24, was one of four inmates to compete in a two-day chess tournament at the Indiana University Medical Center, sponsored by the Indianapolis Chess Club. Smith won his match game Saturday and returned to the Indiana Reformatory Institution. But after he lost Sunday, he slipped away, unnoticed by a counselor and three prison buddies. He was sentenced in 1965 to 10-25 years for robbery. (source: *Kokomo Morning Times*, Aug 9, 1966)

In Dec 1966, the Greater New York Scholastic Championships drew a record 614 youngsters from over 200 schools. There were 486 players in USCF-rated sections. No previous rated tournament had ever drawn more than 265 players. (source: *Chess Life*, Jan 1967, p. 14)

In 1967, the top USCF players were Fischer (2762), Benko (2595), Evans (2593), Reshevsky (2585), Lombardy (2562), Robert Byrne (2550), and Addison (2504). (sources: *Chess Life*, Apr 1967, p. 96 and Sep 1967, p. 279 and Dec 1967, p. 385)

In April 1967, Bobby Fischer took 1st place at a chess tournament in Monaco. He received an appearance fee of \$2,000 and a 5,000 franc first place prize. The trophy was presented to him by Prince Rainier (1923-2005) and Princess Grace (1929-1982). Fischer refused to pose for a photograph with the prince or princess.

In 1967, the USSR listed the occupations of their Soviet chess players. They were Antoshin-designer, Averbakh-engineer, Boleslavsky-journalist, Bondarevsky-economic engineer, Botvinnik-electrical engineer, Bronstein-journalist, Geller-economist, Keres-journalist, Kotov-mechanical engineer, Korchnoi-historian, Lein-mathematician, Lilienthal-journalist, Lutikov-student, Osnos-radio technician, Petrosian-journalist, Polugaevsky-engineer, Simagin-journalist, Smyslov-chess professional, Spassky-journalist, Stein-student, Suetin-mechanical engineer, Tal-Journalist, Tolush-journalist, and Vasiukov-journalist. (source: *Chess Life*, July 1967, p.210)

In October, 1967, a famous incident occurred in a game between Milan Matulović and Istvan Bilek at the Sousse Interzonal in Tunisia. Matulović played a losing move but then took it back after saying "J'adoube" ("I adjust") which should be announced *before* adjusting pieces on their square). His opponent complained to the arbiter but the modified move was allowed to stand. This incident earned Matulović the nickname "J'adoubovic." Bobby Fischer participated in the Sousse Interzonal, but withdrew after leading the event with 7 wins and 3 draws. He forfeited his game with the Soviet international master Gipslis because of too many games he had to play in succession as a result of the tournament organizers re-scheduling his games around his religious holidays and Sabbath. Since the organizers would not let him replay the forfeited game, Fischer withdrew. His USCF rating was 2754 after this event.

Harold Phillips (1874-1967) won the first Greater New York Open in 1895. In 1965, he was a spectator at the event at the age of 90. In 1903, he won the Manhattan Chess Club Championship. He was president of the Manhattan Chess Club in the 1930s. He was also president of the Marshall Chess Club. He was USCF president from 1951 to 1954. He played in chess tournaments for over 70 years. He was a lawyer by profession.

In 1967, Jude Acers (1944-) gave an 8.5 hour simultaneous exhibition at the Louisiana State Fair. He won all of his 114 games that he played. He later played 117 opponents in Portland, Oregon and 179 opponents in Long Island. In 1968, he won the Louisiana State Championship. (source: *Chess Review*, Jan 1968, p. 4)

In 1968 International Master David Levy (1945-) made a \$3,000 bet that no chess computer would beat him in 10 years. He won his bet. The original bet was with John McCarthy, a distinguished researcher in Artificial Intelligence at Stanford. The bet was made at the 1968 Machine Intelligence Workshop in Edinburgh University.

In 1968, the men's chess championship of Uzbekistan was Georgy Borisenko (1922-2012). The women's chess championship was his wife, Valentina Borisenko (1920-1993). In 1966, Georgy was awarded the Russian Correspondence Grandmaster title. Valentina won the Women's Soviet Championship 5 times. (source: *Chess Review*, June 1968, p. 166)

In 1969, the Southern California Chess League (formed in 1955) elected grandmaster Isaac Kashdan to its Hall of Fame, this making him the fourth recipient. The others are Harry Borochoy, Jacqueline Piatigorsky, and Herman Steiner. (source: *Chess Review*, Aug 1969, p. 229)

In 1968, the USA only had 25 blind chess players in its Braille Chess Association. The USSR had 150,000 blind players in its Braille Chess Association.

In March 1968, the top USCF players were Fischer (2762), Evans (2593), Benko (2590), Reshevsky (2585), Lombardy (2557), Robert Byrne (2550), Saidy (2506), and Addison (2501) (source: *Chess Life*, Mar 1968, p. 100)

In July 1968, the top USCF players were Fischer (2754), Reshevsky (2602), Evans (2594), Benko (2582), Lombardy (2556), Robert Byrne (2523), and Saidy (2522). (source: *Chess Life*, June 1968, p. 223)

On August 9, 1968, Auckland student Glenn Turner, age 20, completed 68 hours of nonstop chess, claiming a new world record. He played 535 games before quitting. He was the 1968 Auckland University chess champion. (source: *Logan Daily News*, Ohio, Aug 9, 1968)

In Oct 1968, the top USCF players were Fischer (2739), Evans (2600), Reshevsky (2593), Benko (2582), Lombardy (2556), Saidy (2522), and Robert Byrne (2519). (source: *Chess Life*, Oct 1968, p. 335)

In 1968, the Illinois Open was almost cancelled because the building where the tournament was to be held incurred damages such as broken windows during the riots accompanying the Democratic National Convention earlier in the week. A chess-playing judge stepped in and helped find a new location, the Sherman House Hotel in Chicago. There was a 7-way tie for first place, with Greg DeFotis winning on tiebreak. 164 players participated. (source: *Chess Life*, Nov 1968, p. 421)

In 1968, Walter Shreve Ivins (1870-1966), master Emeritus, died in Tucson. He was 96 and his chess-playing span of 85 years set a record. In the 1890s, he was Champion of the Philadelphia Mercantile Chess Club. He won the championship of Tucson several times. (source: *Chess Life*, Jan 1969, p. 4)

In August 1968, Lubomir Kavalek (1943-2021) of Czechoslovakia defected to the West instead of returning to Soviet-dominated Czechoslovakia. He had just finished 2nd place in a chess tournament in Poland. With his winnings, he bought several crates of vodka and used them to bribe the border guards as he drove to West Germany. He later went to Amsterdam on a student visa. In 1970 he immigrated to the United States where he worked at Voice of America.

In December 1968, 455 youngsters entered the second annual School Chess Festival in Van Nuys, California. It broke all records for participation in chess tournaments in California. May Sam Yorty of Los Angeles designated the period December 23-27 as Chess Week, in honor of the tournament. Over 100 schools were represented. (source: *Chess Life*, April 1969, p. 152)

In 1969, the top USCF players were Fischer (2745), Evans (2628), Reshevsky (2604), Benko (2588), Robert Byrne (2550), and Lombardy (2545). The top junior was Walter Browne (2453) age 20. (sources: *Chess Life*, Jan 1969, p. 28 and Mar 1969, p. 115)

In 1969, the 2nd annual University of Virginia Open, with 45 players, was won by Norman Whitaker (1890-1975), age 79. On one of the low boards, a player resigned in a stalemated position. However, tournament director Pedro Saavedra rules that the game was a draw since stalemate ends the game. (source: *Chess Life*, July 1969, p. 298)

In 1969, there were 636 students that competed in the Third Annual Los Angeles Scholastic Open Chess Tournament. This was the largest assemblage of chess players ever to participate in a single chess event outside of New York City. Over 150 trophies were presented by Mrs. Gregor Piatigorsky. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, April 1970, p. 234)

In Dec 1969, the 5th Annual Greater New York Chess Congress attracted 813 players, the largest chess tournament in U.S. history at that time. In 1971, the 4th annual School Chess Festival in Van Nuys, California drew a record 873 players. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Mar 1971, p. 132, 146)

In 1969, the top world chess players were Fischer (2720), Spassky (2690), Korchnoi (2680), Botvinnik (2660), Petrosian (2650), Larsen (2630), Smyslov (2620), Portisch (2620), Geller (2620), Polugaevsky (2610), Stein (2610), Keres (2610), Tal (2610), Olafsson (2600), and Kholmov (2600). (source: *Chess Life*, Sep 1969, p. 377)

In December 1969, the top USCF players were Fischer (2745), Reshevsky (2629), Evans (2591), Benko (2566), Robert Byrne (2532), and Lombardy (2527). The top

junior was Walter Browne (2459). The top woman was Gisel Gresser (2025). (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Dec 1969, p. 514)

From Nov 9 to Dec 12, 1970, the 8th FIDE Interzonal Tournament was held in Palma de Mallorca. Bobby Fischer won the event scoring 18.5 out of 23 (24 players). Huebner, Larsen, and Geller all scored 15 to tie for 2nd-4th. Fischer scored 3.5 points ahead of them. Fischer's only loss was to Bent Larsen. Fischer won 15 games and drew 7 games. Fischer was voted "Player of the Year" and received the "Chess Oscar." This was the last Interzonal held as a one-section round robin. Tickets to the event was 22 cents. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Jan 1971, p. 8)

In 1970, the top USCF players were Fischer (2755), Reshevsky (2634), Benko (2575), Evans (2561), Kavalek (2535), and Lombardy (2523), and Robert Byrne (2505). Top Junior was Ken Rogoff (2328). (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Mar 1970, p. 160 and June 1970, p. 336)

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In 1970, Charles Walter won the South Carolina Closed Championship at the age of 16, the youngest state champion ever. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Jan 1971, p. 20)

In 1970, there were 75 countries that were members of FIDE. There were 65 grandmasters in the world. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Jan 1971, p. 25, 29)

In 1970, a Japanese chess team participated in a Chess Olympiad for the first time, at Siegen. At the time, the Japanese Chess Federation had about 500 members. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Feb 1971, p. 75)

In 1970-71, Boris Spassky played 50,000 opponents. His opponents, picked from the readers of a Soviet newspaper for juveniles, played 2 games by mail, the

majority of votes determining each move, the majority of votes determining each move. Spassky drew one game and won one game. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Nov 1971, p. 634)

In 1970-71, a chess computer (CHESS 3.0) played 3rd board for Northwestern University "C" team at the North American Intercollegiate, held at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. Players from other teams argued that since the computer had no student ID card, it could not play. However, the machine was given a free USCF membership, so it played. It won 2 games and lost 6. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Mar 1971, p. 150)

On May 6, 1970, Bobby Fischer won at Rovinj-Zagreb, scoring 13 out of 17. Fischer was playing White against Vlatko Kovacevic at Zagreb. On his 18th move, Fischer had a chance to win if Black made the obvious move.

Petrosian and Korchnoi, who were watching the game, spotted Fischer's deadly intention and were analyzing the position in a different room. Petrosian's wife had followed the analysis of the Petrosian and Korchnoi, then walked across to the board and whispered the lines to Kovacevic. Kovacevic then played another, less obvious, but stronger move, and actually won the game. It was Fischer's only loss in the 17-round tournament.

In June 1970, the first chess game ever played between a space vehicle and earth occurred during Soyuz 9. Cosmonauts Col. Andriyan Nikolayev (1929-2004) and Vitaly Sevastianov (1935-2010) had the White pieces against ground controllers Nicolai Kamanin and Victor Gorbaty. The game, a Queen's Gambit Accepted, was drawn after 35 moves. Sevastianov was president of the Soviet Chess Federation from 1977 to 1986 and from 1988 to 1989. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Oct 1970, p. 576)

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The 1971 National Open was held at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks (East Reno), Nevada from March through March 12, 1971. There were \$3,300 prizes guaranteed. First prize was \$700. Entry fee was \$25. Hotel prices were from \$7.35 to \$15.75. It was sponsored by the Staunton Chess Club in Sparks. The event was won by Larry Evans on tiebreak as 7 players tied for 1st place. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Jan 1971, p. 1 and May 1971, p. 238)

In March 1971, the top US players were Fischer (2771), Kavalek (2564), Lombardy (2541), Evans (2539), Benko (2539), Reshevsky (2527), and Robert Byrne (2511). (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Mar 1971, p. 156)

In 1971, there were 89 grandmasters. The USA had 11 GMs. The USA only had 5 of its 225 International FIDE Judges. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, April 1971, p. 189)

In April 1971, Larry Christiansen (1956-), rated 2075, was the first Junior High School student to win the National High School Championship, held in New York.

He was in 9th grade at the time. He went on to win 3 invitational U.S. Junior Championships in 1973, 1974, and 1975. In 1972, he won the Western High School Championship, scoring 6-0. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, June 1971, p. 294 and July 1971, p. 394)

In June 1971, the top US players were Fischer (2771), Kavalek (2571), Lombardy (2541), Evans (2539), Reshevsky (2527), Benko (2517), and Arthur Bisguier (2503). (source: *Chess Life & Review*, June 1971, p. 327)

In 1971 an international chess tournament in Sarajevo had 70% of the games ending in a draw. GM Damjanovic played 15 draws in 15 games. Another GM offered draws to nearly every opponent before each game. Three players had 13 draws each. 53 games were less than 20 moves. In the final round, each of the leaders played just 10 or 12 moves draws to assure the tie and receive some prize money. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, July 1971, p. 366)

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On November 13, 1971, David Moran, and inmate at Western Penitentiary, was permitted to play in an out-of-prison chess match as Carnegie-Mellon University. During the chess match, he escaped. He was part of the "The Wall Knights" prison chess team. He was serving two to four years for receiving stolen goods. Another prisoner escaped a week later at another chess tournament. (source: *Somerset Daily American*, PA, Nov 25, 1971)

Miguel Najdorf of Argentina was a general agent for the Jackson National Life Insurance Company, which was headquartered in Lansing, Michigan. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Sep 1971, p. 491)

In 1971 the 72nd US Open was held at the Seaside Park in Ventura, California from August 8 to August 20, 1971. There were \$6,000 guaranteed prize fund. First place was \$1,500. Entry fee was \$30. Campers or trailers was \$2.50 per day for hookup for water and electricity. Hotel costs were from \$ to \$13.00. Walter Browne and Larry Evans tied for 1st. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, May 1971, p. 231)

In Oct 1971, the top US players were Fischer (2801), Kavalek (2571), Lombardy (2541), Evans (2536), Reshevsky (2527), Benko (2517), and Robert Byrne (2507). (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Oct 1971, p. 579)

In 1971, at the Canadian National Exhibition Open in Toronto, one of Walter Browne's opponents tried to fluster him in a time-pressure scramble by banging a

queen down on the side of the board (a pawn was close to promotion). Browne picked up the queen and flung it across the room. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Dec 1971, p. 698)

In 1971, Werner Hug of Switzerland won the 11th World Junior Championship, held in Athens. He was the first player from Switzerland to hold a world title. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Dec 1971, p. 710)

From Nov 25-28, 1971, the 7th annual American Open was held with a \$3,500 prize fund. It was held at the Miramar Hotel in Santa Monica. First place was \$1,000. Entry fee was \$20. Hotel rooms were from \$14 to \$16. The winner was Carl Pilnick on tiebreak with 5 players scoring 7-1. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Sep 1971, p. 488 and Mar 1972, p. 136)

In 1971, Harlow Daly (1883-1979), age 87, played in the New England Open. He had competed in this event every year since he won the New England title in 1908. His chess career lasted 75 years. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Mar 1972, p. 138)

In 1971, Rachel Crotto (1958-), age 12, became the youngest ever to play in the U.S. Women's Championship. In 1972, at age 13, she became the youngest to play in the U.S. Women's Closed Championship. She won the U.S. Women's Championship in 1978 and 1979. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, May 1972, p. 282)

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In Jan 1972, the top US players were Fischer (2825), Kavalek (2573), Evans (2548), Reshevsky (2544), Lombardy (2538), Benko (2513), and Robert Byrne (2493).
(source: *Chess Life & Review*, Jan 1972, p. 37)

In Aug 13-25, 1972, the 73rd US Open was held at the Hotel Shelbourne in Atlantic City, NJ. The prize fund was \$6,500, with 1st place being \$1,500. Entry fee was \$30. The event was won by Walter Browne (2558). (source: *Chess Life & Review*, May 1972, p. 273 and Nov 1972, p. 674)

In 1972, Larry Evans had to miss his final chess game at Lone Pine because his wife, Ingrid, was in a car wreck. She was driving from their home in Reno to Lone Pine before the final round, which happened to fall on her birthday. She met with a car accident suffering a few bruises, but the car was totaled. Louis Statham, the organizer of the Lone Pine tournament, arranged for a driver to take Evans to her.
(source: *Chess Life & Review*, June 1972, p. 334)

In June 1972, the top US players were Fischer (2824), Reshevsky (2566), Evans (2552), Kavalek (2550), Lombardy (2538), Robert Byrne (2534), and Benko (2517).
(source: *Chess Life & Review*, June 1972, p. 374)

In August 1972, the first rated chess tournament at Beale AFB in Yuba City, CA was played. There were 10 players in the event, directed by SSgt Bill Wall. Lt Col Henry Giertych (2030) won the event. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Nov 1972, p. 720)

The 1972 U.S. Chess Championship included 14 participants instead of the previous 12. It also ended in a tripe tie for 1st, which had not happened before.
(source: *Chess Life & Review*, Aug 1972, p. 480)

The 8th Annual American Open was held Nov 23-26, 1972 at the Miramar Hotel in Santa Monica. It had a prize fund of \$3,500 and \$1,000 for 1st place. Entry fee was \$20. Hotel rooms were from \$14 to \$16. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Sep 1972, p. 534)

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Sir George Alan Thomas (1881-1972) won the British chess championship twice in 1923 and 1934. He won the All-England badminton championship 21 times. In 1911, he reached the quarterfinals of the singles and the semifinals of the men's tennis doubles at Wimbledon. He was also a strong hockey player. His mother was the winner of the first Ladies Championship, held in connection with the Hastings Tournament in 1895. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Nov 1972, p. 716)

In Dec 1972, the top US players were Fischer (2810), Reshevsky (2581), Kavalek (2571), Robert Byrne (2558), Evans (2540), Lombardy (2537), and Benko (2522). (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Dec 1972, p. 776)

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In 1972, during the World Youth Team championship in Graz, Switzerland, Robert Huebner of Germany was scheduled to play Ken Rogoff of the USA. Both were tired from previous long games and Huebner offered a draw to Rogoff without making any moves. However, the arbiters did not like this and refused the game.

So the two players put together a score sheet of a game that looked like this:
1.Nf3 Nf6 2.Ng1 Ng8 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Ng1 Ng8 and so on ... Draw. The arbiters were not amused. They insisted that the two play some real moves. So the next game went 1.c4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Nf1 Bg7 4.Qa4 O-O 5.Qxd7 Qxd7 6.g4 Qxd2+ 7.Kxd2 Nxd2 8.b4 a5 9.a4 Bxa1 10.Bb2 Nc6 11.Bh8 Bg7 12.h4 axb4 draw. The arbiters were not amused. They insisted that the two play a valid game. Rogoff agreed but Huebner did not, so Rogoff was given a win and Huebner was given a loss. The Russian team pressed for a double forfeit, but Huebner insisted that he alone bore responsibility. Years later, the main arbiter, Sajtar, admitted he was wrong in ordering a rematch of the games.

In 1973, Ken Regan (1959-), at age 13, was the youngest chess master since Bobby Fischer. At the 10th Metropolitan Open in New York, he had a performance rating of 2550. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Aug 1973, p. 445)

In 1973, the World Open chess tournament in New York had a prize fund of \$15,000, which was a world record for an Open. This was \$5,000 more than any previous open tournament. It set a new U.S. attendance record for an open, non-scholastic tournament with 725 players. Bill Wall, stationed in U Tapao, Thailand, traveled the farthest to play in the event, over 8,500 miles. 33 states and 11 countries were represented. Walter Browne won the event to take top prize of \$2,000. In 1974, the 2nd World Open had a record prize fund of \$17,000. In 1975, the prize fund was \$20,000 with 815 entries. In 1976, the prize fund was \$24,000. In 1977, the prize fund was \$27,000. In 1978, the prize fund was \$40,000 with a record 1,063 entrants. In 1979, the prize fund was \$46,000.

In 1973, during the Anglo-Dutch match, chain smoker Jan Donner (1927-1988) was filling up a large Bakelite ashtray with all of his discarded cigarettes. Cigarette after cigarette and all the ashes were making a big pile in the ashtray, much of which was still emitting smoke. Eventually, after several hours of play and several packs of cigarettes, the mountain of ash and discarded cigarettes burst into flames, causing the Bakelite ashtray to crack completely in half. The players were still transfixed on the position of their game as the chess table started to burn, with neither player seemingly about to take any action to control the fire. At this point, Ray Keene picked up Donner's coffee cup and threw the contents over the fire. With the chess table now covered in a mess, the players looked at one another and offered a draw, shook hands, and left the table.

In 1973, the top chess players in the world were Fischer (2780), Karpov (2660), Tal (2660), Spassky (2655), Korchnoi (2650), Portisch (2650), Petrosian (2640), Botvinnik (2630), Polugaevsky (2625), Larsen (2620), Smyslov (2610), Robert Byrne (2605), Geller (2605), Stein (2605), and Huebner (2600). (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Dec 1973, cover)

In 1973, during the Anglo-Dutch match, chain smoker Jan Donner (1927-1988) was filling up a large Bakelite ashtray with all of his discarded cigarettes. Cigarette after cigarette and all the ashes were making a big pile in the ashtray, much of which was still emitting smoke. Eventually, after several hours of play and several packs of cigarettes, the mountain of ash and discarded cigarettes burst into flames, causing the Bakelite ashtray to crack completely in half. The players were still transfixed on the position of their game as the chess table started to burn, with neither player seemingly about to take any action to control the fire. At this point, Ray Keene picked up Donner's coffee cup and threw the contents over the fire. With the chess table now covered in a mess, the players looked at one another and offered a draw, shook hands, and left the table.

In 1974, Claude Bloodgood (1937-2001) escaped from a chess tournament after he and another fellow inmate chessplayer, Lewis Carpenter, overpowered a guard watching over him. They had received a furlough to play in a local Virginia chess tournament. He was captured a few days later. This ended any further chess organization in the prison. Bloodgood was sentenced to death in 1970 for strangling his mother in 1969. His sentence was later commuted to life imprisonment.

In 1974 in a tournament in Poland, Mikhail Tal (1936-1992) was playing Jan Adamski (1943-) with both players in time trouble. Adamski's flag fell but Tal lost a piece and resigned. At that moment Tal's wife, who had been counting the moves, said "Black has not yet made 40 moves." The flag had fallen before Tal resigned. The arbiter intervened and awarded the win to Tal, who went on to win the tournament. Tal's wife scored this point! Later, it was shown that Adamski quit writing his moves down after move 25 because of time trouble, and then he added two fake moves while reconstructing his score sheet to make it seem he made more than 40 moves.

In 1974, South Africa was ousted from FIDE because of its apartheid racial policies. In 1976, at the FIDE Congress in Haifa, FIDE member nations voted to readmit South Africa. The vote to readmit was 38 to 3, with 7 abstentions. Negative votes were cast by British Virgin Islands, Yugoslavia, and New Zealand. Apartheid was introduced in South Africa in 1948. South Africa was expelled from FIDE while participating in the 1974 Chess Olympiad in Nice. South Africa returned to international competition in the 1992 Chess Olympiad. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Jan 1977, p. 8)

In 1974, the top USCF players were Robert Byrne (2618), Kavalek (2570), Browne (2562), Evans (2523), Benko (2512), Reshevsky (2510), and Lombardy (2507). The top Junior was Larry Christiansen (2362). (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Dec 1974, p. 805)

On Oct 25, 1974, Leon Stolzenberg (1895-1974) died in Detroit. He won the U.S. Open (Western Chess Association Tournament) in 1926 and 1928. He won the championship of Michigan 12 times. He was the U.S. Open Postal Chess Champion (Golden Knights) 3 times (1947-48, 1950, 1960-61). He won the championship of the Correspondence Chess League of America twice. He was a medic in the hospital at Tarnopol, Ukraine in World War I. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Jan 1975, p. 8)

In 1975, the top chess players in the world were Fischer (2780), Karpov (2705), Korchnoi (2665), Petrosian (2645), Polugaevsky (2645), Tal (2645), Portisch (2635), Larsen (2625), Spassky (2625), Huebner (2615), Ljubojevic (2615), Mecking (2610), Smyslov (2605), Byrne (2600), Geller (2600), Hort (2600), Kuzman (2600), and Smejkal (2600). (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Jan 1975, p. 9)

In January 1975, the Friends of the Cleveland Public Library offered a reward of \$500 for information leading to the recovery of 5 valuable collectors' chess sets stolen from the White Collection at the Cleveland Public Library. The sets included an 18th century Chinese set, and 18th century Japanese chess set, and a contemporary American Pyrex set. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, April 1975, p. 248)

On July 24, 1975, Nicolas Rossolimo (1910-1975) died from injuries resulting from a fall in a hallway in Greenwich Village. He was one of 12 U.S. Grandmasters. He

won the Paris chess championship 10 times. He won the French championship in 1948 and 1953. In 1955, he won the U.S. Open. He represented France in the 1950 Chess Olympiad. He was a member of the U.S. team at the Chess Olympiads in 1958, 1960, and 1966. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Sep 1975, p.571)

In 1975, 15-year-old Michael Rohde (1959-), former National Junior High and National High School Champion, was the youngest U.S. player since Bobby Fischer to achieve a 2300 rating. He was a master at 13. He is now an attorney.

From October to December 1975, Walter Browne drove over 16,000 miles through 40 states and gave 50 simultaneous exhibitions. He played 1,417 games, winning 1,328, drawing 49, and losing 40 games. He made over \$10,000 after expenses in two months. (source: Interview with Walter Browne, by Bill Wall, *Statesville Record and Landmark*, Dec 13, 1975)

In December 1975, the top USCF players were Browne (2594), Byrne (2549), Kavalek (2546), Evans (2541), and Lombardy (2507). The top junior was Larry Christiansen (2440). (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Dec 1975, p. 843)

From October to December 1975, Walter Browne drove over 16,000 miles through 40 states and gave 50 simultaneous exhibitions. He played 1,417 games, winning 1,328, drawing 49, and losing 40 games. He made over \$10,000 after expenses in two months. (source: Interview with Walter Browne, by Bill Wall, *Statesville Record and Landmark*, Dec 13, 1975)

In 1976, Fischer lost a lawsuit against *Life* magazine and one of its writers, Brad Darrach, for violation of a contract. After this loss, Fischer stopped paying any federal income taxes. He was getting about \$6,000 a year in royalties for his chess books.

In 1976, the top USCF players were Browne (2580), Evans (2549), Kavalek (2521), Byrne (2520), Lombardy (2507), and Tarjan (2507). The top junior was Chrstiansen (2431). The top Under 16 was Yasser Seirawan (2234). The top woman was Ruth Herstein (2051). (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Jan 1976,p. 134)

In 1976, Michael Wilder (1962-) of New Jersey at 13 became the youngest chess master since Fischer after he tied for 1st in the Greater New York Open. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Apr 1976, p. 188)

In December 1976, the top USCF players were Byrne (2567), Lein (2552), Kavalek (2550), Evans (2549), Browne (2547), Tarjan (2533), Rogoff (2519), Lombardy (2513), Commons (2503), and Shamkovich (2501). (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Dec 1976, p. 675)

In 1976, Boris Spassky (1937-) was given permission by Soviet authorities to live in France for one year as long as he refrained from participation in chess activity. He was then denied permission to marry French citizen Marina Stcherbatcheff. Spassky then complained to the international press and worldwide adverse publicity forced Soviet officials to permit the marriage to take place. Spassky lived at the home of his third new wife's family. Spassky became a French citizen in 1978. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Jan 1977, p. 8)

On July 27, 1976, Viktor Korchnoi, age 45, world's No. 2 rated chess player, defected from the USSR and asked for political asylum in The Netherlands. His wife, Bela, and their 17-year-old son, Igor, were at home in Leningrad and both said they had no idea that Viktor was defecting. Korchnoi had just finished playing in the IBM International in Amsterdam. He tied for 1st with Tony Miles. (source: *Colorado Springs Telegraph*, July 28, 1976 and "Korchnoy's Complaint", by Bill Wall, *Statesville Record and Landmark*, Sep 25, 1976)

In 1977, Mark Diesen (1957-2008), 19, won the World Junior Championship. He was the youngest U.S. player since Fischer to win an international title up to that time. It was the first time an American had won the World Junior Championship since Bill Lombardy in 1957. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Feb 1977, p. 70)

On February 20, 1977, Mrs. Regina Fischer, mother of Bobby Fischer, was arrested in London while protesting as government deportation order against two American journalists. She was sentenced to one year's probation for obstructing the sidewalk outside a British government office. (source: *Indiana Gazette*, PA, Mar 16, 1977)

In early 1977, the top USCF players were Byrne (2578), Evans (2565), Browne (2547), Kavalek (2544), Tarjan (2535), Lombardy (2534), Lein (2524), Rogoff (2519), Commons (2514), and Benko (2513). (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Mar 1977, p.161)

In July 1977, Joel Benjamin (1964-) became the youngest U.S. master at the age of 13 years, 3 months. Bobby Fischer was a master at 13 years, 5 months. As a junior, he won the National Elementary championship (1976), the National Junior High championship (1978), and the National High School championship (1980-81). (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Sep 1977, p. 476)

In December 1977, the top active USCF players were Kavalek (2563), Tarjan (2548), Browne (2547), Byrne (2544), Lombardy (2532), Rogoff (2519), Commons (2515), Benko (2514), Evans (2508), Christiansen (2504), and Soltis (2502). The top junior was Mark Diesen (2428). The top woman was Diane Savereide (2130). (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Dec 1977, p. 662)

On February 20, 1977, Mrs. Regina Fischer, mother of Bobby Fischer, was arrested in London while protesting against a government deportation order against two American journalists. She was sentenced to one year's probation for obstructing the sidewalk outside a British government office. (source: *Indiana Gazette*, PA, Mar 16, 1977)

In 1978, Arpad Elo (1903-1992) ranked the best chess players in history. Their ratings were based on a five-year peak performance. The top players were Fischer (2780), Capablanca (2725), Karpov (2725), Botvinnik (2720), Lasker (2720), and Tal (2700). (source: *Chess Life*, Mar 1980, p. 10)

In 1978, Nona Gaprindashvili (1941-) became the first woman to be awarded the FIDE title Grandmaster. She is married but retains her maiden name. She does not take her husband's last name, Chichikadze.

In June, 1978, a chess piece was auctioned for \$82,000 in London and was purchased by a German museum. The art auction was part of an effort to return some of the treasures Adolf Hitler drove out of the country. (source: *Iola Register*, June 24, 1978)

In 1978, the top active USCF players were Browne (2579), Kavalek (2576), Byrne (2553), Lombardy (2532), Tarjan (2522), Rogoff (2519), Commons (2515), Benko (2514), Evans (2508), and Lein (2506). (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Mar 1978, p. 156)

In 1978, Nona Gapridashvili (1941-) became the first woman to be awarded the FIDE title Grandmaster. She is married but retains her maiden name. She does not take her husband's last name, Chichikadze.

Pope Paul VI (1897-1978), commended the teaching of chess to children. He suggested that if children were occupied over the chess board instead of playing with war toys, the cause of peace might be served.

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On July 16, 1978, Grandmaster Bill Lombardy (1937-2017) was attacked by a knife-wielding mugger on a street near his home. In the scuffle, tendons in two fingers on his left hand were severed. He is left-handed. He rushed to nearby Beth Israel Hospital where he underwent a long operation to repair the severed tendons. In 1957, he won the World Junior Championship, the only person to win that event with a perfect score. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Sep 1978, p. 471)

In November 1978, Dr. Lee Hyder (1936-2003) won the South Carolina Chess Championship, held in Columbia, for the 6th time (he won it 7 times during his career). Hyder was USCF Secretary from 1975 to 1978. There were 63 players. Among the entrants were 6 inmates from the South Carolina Department of Corrections. This was the first time players from the state prison system were allowed to play outside the prison. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Jan 1979, p. 5)

In 1979, the top active USCF players were Kavalek (2596), Browne (2584), Byrne (2537), Tarjan (2530), Evans (2517), Shamkovich (2516), Lombardy (2515), Rogoff (2515), Mednis (2511), Lein (2507), and Peters (2500). (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Jan 1979, p. 27)

In 1979, after the Islamic revolution, chess was banned in Iran on the count of encouraging gambling, warmongering, and inattention to the five ritual prayers every day. This ban was in effect until 1988, when the Ayatollah Khomeini rehabilitated the game.

In 1979, the top players in the world were Karpov (2705), Korchnoi (2695), Portisch (2640), Spassky (2640), Polugaevsky (2625), Timman (2625), Larsen (2620), Mecking (2615), Tal (2615), Petrosian (2610), Balashov (2600), and Hort (2600). There were 162 grandmasters in the world and 301 International Masters. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, April 1979, p. 184)

In 1979, Czech Grandmaster Vlastimil Hort (1944-) moved to West Germany with official permission to teach chess in Cologne. In 1985, he defected to the West, moving to West Germany permanently. The top woman player from Czechoslovakia, Stepanka Vokralova (1949-), escaped to Sweden, and then to West Germany. Petra Feustel (1958-2010), a leading East German woman chess master, was apprehended by East German border police while trying to escape to West Germany. She was sentenced to 4 years in prison. She was released after 20 months and forced to leave the country. She settled in Mannheim, West Germany. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, May 1979, p. 250)

On July 8, 1979, Harlow Busey Daly (1883-1979) died at the age of 95. He played chess for 75 years. He won the New England Championship in 1908. He won chess championships of Boston (4 times), New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts (twice), and Maine (9 times). He was a Master Emeritus of the USCF. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Sep 1979, p. 496)

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In 1980, Viktor Korchnoi (1931-2016) feared for his life in his quarterfinal Candidates Match with Soviet GM Lev Polugaevsky, played in Velden, Austria. He shared the expense of installing bulletproof glass between him and spectators. He also made sure that Velden had enough apartments to allow him to move about

frequently to avoid having his quarters bugged. (source: *Chess Life*, April 1980, p.10)

In September 18, 1980, Frank Anderson (1928-1980), and International Master from Canada, died unexpectedly at the age of 52. In 1948, he tied for first in the U.S. Junior Championship. In 1953 he was co-champion of Canada. In 1955, he won the title outright. In 1958, he scored 84% in the Munich Chess Olympiad to come within one game of qualifying for a grandmaster title. However, even though the outcome of the final game would not have mattered, he became too ill to continue and subsequently lost his chance for the title. He twice won gold medals at the chess Olympiads for the best scores on his board. (source: *Chess Life*, Jan 1981, p. 13)

In September 1980, Bill Wall was elected president of the Ohio Chess Association while still serving as president of the North Carolina Chess Association.

From November 20 to December 6, 1980, the 24th Chess Olympiad was held in Valletta, Malta. The Soviet Union took the gold, followed by Hungary with the silver and Yugoslavia with the bronze. The USA took 4th place. John Jarecki played for the British Virgin Islands at the age of 11. He played on Board 2. Anatoly Karpov refused to shake hands with Lev Alburt because Alburt had defected to the USA in 1978. The Soviet team (Karpov, Polugaevsky, Tal, Geller, Balashov, Kasparov) won the event (on tiebreak over Hungary). Both the Soviet men's and women's team came from behind to take the gold in this Olympiad.

In 1980, John Litvinchuk (1967-), age 12, became the youngest American chess master ever up to that time. He won the Laura Aspis Prize for being the number one ranked American under the age of 13. In 1982, he was National High School co-champion. In 1986, he won the US Junior Championship. (source: *Chess Life*, Mar 1980, p. 3)

In 1980, the World Open had a \$52,000 prize fund. In 1981, the prize fund was \$53,000. It had only 702 players, the smallest World Open ever. There was a 5-way tie and none of the winners were grandmasters. This was the first time that a grandmaster failed to win the tournament or tie for first place (this also happened in 1982). (source: *Chess Life*, Nov 1981, p. 7) In 1982, the prize fund was \$55,000. Four more big tournaments were held at the same location, making

the total prize fund at \$66,500. In 1983, the prize fund was \$57,000. Four more big tournaments were held at the same location, making the total prize fund at \$71,000. In 1984, the prize fund was \$81,000 with only 462 players. It was won by Joel Benjamin, the first clear World Open winner in over 10 years. In 1985, the prize fund was \$150,200. There were 1,251 players. In 1986, the prize fund was \$180,000. It was won by Nick de Firmian who collected a record \$20,941. There were 1,506 players, including 23 GMs. In 1987, the prize fund was \$210,000. In 1987, the prize fund was \$181,000 with 1,293 players. In 1988, the prize fund was \$200,000. In 1989, the prize fund was \$220,000 with 1,127 players and 30 GMs.

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In 1981, the top world chess players were Karpov (2690), Korchnoi (2650), Portisch (2650), Huebner (2635), Spassky (2635), Kasparov (2625), Beljavsky (2620), Timman (2620), Geller (2615), Mecking (2615), Andersson (2610), Larsen (2610), Ljubojevic (2605), and Balashov (2600). (source: *Chess Life*, April 1981, p. 10)

In 1981, future grandmaster John Fedorowicz and grandmaster Andras Adorjan got into a fistfight at the Edward Lasker Memorial on New York. Fedorowicz was upset that Adorjan beat him when Adorjan was drawing all his earlier games. Most of the blows landed not on each other, but on the tournament director, Eric Schiller, who was trying to break up the fight.

In 1981, John Jareck, age 12, (born Jan 1, 1969) became a chess master after a good result at the World Open. In 1980, he became the first and only person to win the National Elementary and National Junior High Chess Championship in the same year. Stuart Rachels, age 11 (born Sep 26, 1969), 8 months younger than Jarecki, went 3-0 in a qualifying event for the Birmingham City Championship to achieve his first master's rating. He became the youngest chess master in U.S.

history, a record that stood until 1994. Both players gave up chess at a young age. (source: *Chess Life*, Feb 1982, p. 15)

In 1981, for the first time, a computer chess program won 1st place in a state championship. Cray Blitz, written by Bob Hyatt and Albert Gower, scored 5-0 in the Mississippi state championship. It earned a performance rating of 2258. Cray Blitz was the first computer to beat a master (Joseph Sentef, rated 2262) in a rated tournament. Cray Blitz played in chess events from 1980 to 1994. (source: *Chess Life*, Dec 1981, p. 11)

In 1982, the top players in the world were Karpov (2720), Timman (2655), Korchnoi (2645), Kasparov (2640), Portisch (2630), Spassky (2625), and Huebner (2620). The top US players were Kavalek (2590), Browne (2585), Christiansen (2575), Seirawan (2575), Alburt (2550), and Tarjan (2520). (source: *Chess Life*, April 1982, p. 11)

In 1982, Yasser Seirawan (1960-) defeated World Champion Anatoly Karpov in their individual game at the Phillips and Drew International in London. It was the first time in the modern era that a U.S. player had beaten a reigning world champion in tournament play. The last time it had been done was in 1937 when Reuben Fine defeated world champion Alexander Alekhine twice. (source: *Chess Life*, Aug 1982, p. 16)

In May 1982, Ken Thompson and Belle, the reigning World Computer Champion, was invited to Russia to demonstrate Belle at a scientific exhibition. Thompson was the software developer of Belle. When Thompson landed in Moscow, Belle was still in New York. The 400-pound machine had been impounded at JFK airport by U.S. Customs officials, who feared Belle might be useful to the Soviet military. The seizure was part of "Operation Exodus," which was a new program to stop high-technology information from leaking to the Soviets. Thompson said that the only way Belle could be used militarily would be "to drop it out of an airplane. You might kill someone that way." In October 1983, Belle was the first machine to gain an established master's rating. (source: *Chess Life*, Sep 1982, p. 12)

In September 1982, Boris Gulko and his wife were arrested for protesting at the Moscow Interzonal in Moscow. They were trying to emigrate to Israel. Gulko was beaten by KGB agents and was forbidden to play in top-level competitions.

On October 21, 1982, Ed Edmondson (1920-1982) died after suffering a heart attack on September 27 while playing chess on Waikiki Beach. In 1961, he was elected vice-president of the USCF. In 1963, he was elected president of the USCF and served until 1966. He was USCF's first executive director and served from 1966 to 1975. (source: *Chess Life*, Jan 1983, p. 10)

In 1983, the top chess players in the world were Karpov (2710), Kasparov (2690), Ljubojevic (2645), Andersson (2635), Huebner (2625), Polugaevsky (2625), Portisch (2620), Tal (2620), Petrosian (2605), Spassky (2605), Timman (2605), Korchnoi (2600), and Seirawan (2600). (source: *Chess Life*, April 1983, p. 17)

By 1983, Edgar McCormick (1914-1991) had played in 31 U.S. Open chess tournaments, followed by Arthur Bisguier (27), Thomas Jenkins (25), Edmund Nash (22), Jack Shaw and Fred Cramer (21), Marshall Rohland (18), and Edwin Faust (17). By the end of his life, McCormick had played in more U.S. Opens than anyone, a total of 37. McCormick also won the New Jersey championship in 1951 and 1972. (source: *Chess Life*, Aug 1983, p. 13)

In 1983, the U.S. Open in Pasadena had over 800 players, making it the largest U.S. Open in history up to that time. Larry Christiansen and Viktor Korchnoi tied for 1st. (source: *Chess Life*, Nov 1983, p. 12)

In 1983, Paul Waldowski won the Nebraska invitational championship, and tied for 1st in the state amateur championship. Both events were held on the same weekend. In 1978, he won the Mississippi State Championship. In 2003, he won the Armed Forces Open. (source: *Chess Life*, Jan 1984, p. 9)

On December 9, 1983, Hungarian GM Janos Flesch (1933-1983) and his wife, Ildiko Tenyei, died in a car wreck in Whitstable, England. Flesch had been in England for several international events and as a spectator at the London candidates' matches. Flesch was the world record holder at the time for simultaneous blindfold play – 52 opponents in Budapest in 1960. However, he

was allowed to consult scoresheets of the games and therefore his claim was disallowed. (source: *Chess Life*, Mar 1984, p. 7)

In 1983, Anna Akhsharumova was playing the final round of the Soviet Women's Chess championship against her main competitor, Nana Ioseliani. Anna won the game on time forfeit and should have won the title. But the next day, Ioseliani filed a protest alleging a malfunction in the chess clock. Ioseliani demanded a new game be played. Anna refused to play, so the result of her game with Ioseliani was reversed by the All-Union Board of Referees in Moscow (the tournament itself was being played in Tallinn), thereby forfeiting her title. Anna went from 1st place to 3rd place over this decision.

In 1983, the New York Open had a \$100,000 prize fund with 1,002 chessplayers. 406 players shared in the prize fund. There were 13 GMs, 24 IMs, and 108 masters in the event. (source: *Chess Life*, July 1983, p. 26) In 1984, the New York Open had a prize fund of \$105,000 with 1,025 players. There were 17 GMs, 29 IMs, and 132 masters in the event. The players came from 21 countries and 45 states. GM Roman Dzindzichashvili won the 1984 event and \$18,000 for 1st place. In 1985, the prize fund was \$126,350. There were 1,070 players. In 1986, the prize fund was \$130,000 with 975 players, including 31 grandmasters. In 1987, the prize fund was \$175,000. There were 1,075 players with 45 grandmasters and 30 International Masters. In 1988, the prize fund was \$125,000 with 980 players. In 1989, the prize fund was \$165,000. There were 47 GMs and 24 IMs.

In 1984, the top players in the world were Kasparov (2710), Karpov (2700), Korchnoi (2635), Ljubojevic (2635), Andersson (2630), Vaganian (2630), Portisch (2625), Huebner (2620), Tal (2620), Hort (2615), Polugaevsky (2615), and Spassky (2615). The top U.S. players were Brown (2585), Christiansen (2550), Gurevich (2545), Kavalek (2545), Seirawan (2525), Byrne (2520), and Kudrin (2520). (source: *Chess Life*, April 1984, p. 29)

In 1984, Boris Spassky (1937-) no longer competed in chess events for the Soviet Union. He cited increasing difficulties with the Soviet Sports Committee as the reason for his decision. Spassky had lived in France with his French-born third wife since 1976, but had retained Soviet citizenship and officially competed as a Soviet player. In 2012, he left France and returned to Russia. (source: *Chess Life*, Sep 1984, p. 7)

From November 18 to December 5, 1984, the 26th Chess Olympiad was held in Thessaloniki, Greece. At the 1984 chess Olympiad in Thessaloniki, Greece, Ion Gudju (born in 1897) of Romania served on the appeals committee. He was 87 years old and may be the oldest player to participate in the chess Olympics (but not as a player). He played in the first unofficial chess Olympiad in 1924 in Paris. In 1984, the famous Bermuda Party was held, which continued until 1998. It was the biggest social event of the Olympiads. John Nunn of England won three gold medals: best score on board 2, best performance rating, and winner of the problem-solving contest. The USA team defeated the USSR team for the first time in Olympiad history. The youngest player in the event was 12-year old Isabelle Kintzler, who played 3rd board on the French women's team.

In 1984, USA beat USSR – the first ever American Olympiad win over the USSR. The USSR took the gold, England took the silver, and the USA took the bronze. (source: *Chess Life*, Feb 1985, p.7)

In 1985, Nick Down, a former British Junior Correspondence champion, entered the British Ladies Correspondence Championship as Miss Leigh Strange and won the event (and 15 British pounds along with the Lady Herbert trophy). He then signed up to represent Britain in the Ladies Postal Olympiad. He was later caught when one of his friends mouthed off about it and Nick confessed. The whole thing had been cooked up by Nick Down and a group of undergraduates at Cambridge, where Nick was a student. Nick returned the Lady Herbert trophy and was banned from the British Correspondence Chess Association for two years.

In 1986, grandmaster Aleksander Wojtkiewicz (1963-2006) was arrested and sent to prison in Latvia for dodging the Soviet Army draft. While in prison, he studied chess and found a novelty in the Sicilian Defense, Accelerated Dragon variation. The new move was coined the "Prison Novelty."

In 1986, the top USCF players were Seirawan (2679), Christiansen (2653), Dlugy (2648), Dzindzichashvili (2630), Alburt (2624), de Firmian (2619), Lesn (2610), Gruenfeld (2606), Gurevich (2604), and Kavalek (2603) (source: *Chess Life*, Jan 1986, p. 57)

In 1986, the chess Olympiad was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. It may have been the most expensive chess Olympiad ever. The organizers offered \$1 million for free airline tickets to teams who were reluctant to participate. 108 teams showed up, a record at the time (prior to this, Lucerne had 91 teams in 1982). Israel was not allowed to participate, but the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was. Sweden, Norway, Denmark, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Netherlands refused to play in protest to the Israeli ban. 10-year old Heidi Cueller represented Guatemala and may be the youngest player to participate in the chess Olympics. The Guatemalan men's team was represented by four brothers names Juarez. The USA team defeated the USSR team, becoming the only team to defeat the Soviet team twice in a row in Olympiad competition. Judit Polgar won a gold medal in the Women's Olympiad at the age of 11.

In 1987, the top USCF players were Christiansen (2707), Seirawan (2659), Rohde (2653), Fedorowicz (2652), Alburt (2649), Dlugy (2646), Gurevich (2640), de Firmian (2630), Benjamin (2622), Kavalek (2622), Dzindzichashvili (2613), and Gruenfeld (2604) (source: *Chess Life*, Jan 1987, p. 59)

In 1987, Grandmaster Tony Miles (1955-2001) was arrested at 10 Downing Street in London after trying to get in after midnight to talk to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher about payments owed to him by the British Chess Federation. He was eventually hospitalized for two months from a mental breakdown.

In 1988, undercover police arrested a chess player at a park in New York City after he won a marked \$5 bill against a cop posing as a construction worker during a blitz game. The chess player was jailed for 3 days, his medication was confiscated, and he had a heart attack. The arrest was finally tossed out by a judge. Five years later, the city settled the wrongful arrest lawsuit out of court for \$100,000.

On April 16, 1988, Dr. Milton Hanauer (1908-1988) died. He graduated from City College of New York (CCNY) at 17. He was the youngest person to the the New York State chess championship. He was the youngest person ever licensed to teach in the New York City's public schools and became a school principal. He played on the silver medal winning US team in the 2nd Chess Olympiad at The Hague in 1928. He served as a director and club officer of the Marshall Chess Club for almost 50 years. (source: *Chess Life*, Sep 1988, p. 22)

In 1989, the top USCF players were Seirawan (2725), Gulko (2697), de Firmian (2679), Benjamin (2675), Browne (2670), Kudrin (2670), Rohde (2664), Dlugy (2660), Alburt (2654), and Wilder (2649). (source: *Chess Life*, Apr 1989, p. 27)

In 1989, the police raided a chess tournament in Los Angeles. The L.A.P.D. vice officers raided a nightly chess tournament held at Dad's Donuts. They cited three men for gambling after finding \$1.50 on the table. The police staged the raid after an undercover detective tried unsuccessfully to join a blitz chess game. The detective then pulled out his badge and said "all of you are under arrest," as the L.A.P.D. swooped in.

In 1990 Bogdan Szetela noticed a car drive by that looked like his that had been stolen 11 days earlier. But this car had a taxi light on top and "Crescent Cab Co." painted on the side. Spotting a police officer, he told the cop that the cab was his stolen car. Police weren't convinced until he told them that he left a chess set in the trunk before it was stolen. The police popped the trunk and found the chess set.

In 1991, Arkady Flom, a 64-year-old grandfather was arrested in Manhattan after a young man sat down to play chess with him in the park. The young man played so poorly that Flom would give him pointers in exchange for \$2. The young man agreed. They played for 20 more minutes and the young fellow paid his money. As soon as Flom put the money in his pocket, four NYPD officers approached him, slapped him in handcuffs and read him his rights. He was arrested for promoting gambling in the second degree and for possession of a gambling device, his chess set. He was jailed for 3 days, his medication was confiscated, and he had a heart attack. Five years later, he received a \$1 million settlement in a false arrest suit against New York City as the judge ruled that a chess game was not "gambling" since it was a game of skill rather than chance and the chess board was not "gambling equipment."

Arpad Elo (1903-1992) played in 37 consecutive state championships in Wisconsin, from 1933 to 1969, winning the title 8 times. He was a professor of physics for 37 years and president (1935-1937) of the American Chess Federation before it merged and came part of the U.S. Chess Federation (USCF) in 1939. He is considered the father of scientific chess ratings and his Elo rating system was adopted by the USCF in 1960 and by FIDE in 1970.

In 1992, Robert Bryan of England shot Matthew Hay over a chess game. Bryan had 'had enough' after losing to Hay and was jailed for 10 years after admitting attempting to murder Mr. Hay by shooting him in the neck with a shotgun.

In 1992, the first Internet chess server (ICS) was launched. It later evolved into the Internet Chess Club (ICC) in 1995.

In 1992. Alexander Pichushkin, known as the Chessboard Killer, began his serial killing. Between 1992 and 2006, he may have killed 60 people, aiming for 64 killings for every chessboard square. He was a strong chess player. He sometimes picked his victims by playing chess with them in the park, then killim them afterwards.

Menachem Begin (1913-1992), President of Israel from 1977 to 1983, was a chess player. In September 1978, he played a chess game against National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brezinski at Camp David. Begin told Brezinski that the last time he played chess was in September 1940, when the NKVD (secret police) broke into his hiding place in Vilna to arrest him. Shortly afterward, Begin's wife passed by and said. "Oh, the two of you are playing chess. You know, Mr. Brzezinski, Menachem just loves to play. He plays all the time."

In 1993, chess was banned from American River College in California because of disruptive behavior on people playing in the cafeteria and library. Campus police ordered some chess players to stop playing chess. The players refused and the campus police confiscated the chess board and pieces.

Actor Claude Akins (1926-1994) was an enthusiastic chess player. He learned how to play chess in college and played chess with friends and actors throughout his life. During the making of the 1959 movie Rio Bravo (he played Joe Burdette), he played chess constantly with John Wayne, Dean Martin, and Ricky Nelson. Akins said that he taught Dean Martin how to play chess. In 1973, Claude starred in Battle for the Planet of the Apes (he was Aldo). Between takes, Claude was always playing chess in a gorilla costume. Claude played in one of Walter Browne's blitz tournaments and was a spectator (along with Morgan Fairchild and Gene Scherer) with a front row seat at the 1988 World Action Chess Championship in Mazatlan, Mexico. One of his regular chess partners was actor William Windom (1923-Aug

16, 2012). There is a photo of Claude Akins and William Windom playing chess in the March 1988 issue of Chess Life.

Vladimir Antoshin (1929-1994) earned the Grandmaster title in 1964. In 1960, he won the USSR Correspondence Championship. He was a noted opening theorist, tournament organizer, and trainer to the USSR Chess Olympiad team. His occupation was technical designer. According to GM Mark Taimanov, he had strong ties to the KGB. He died one day before his 65th birthday.

In 1994, Joseph Neale was a postal worker who was dismissed from a part-time city job coach coaching chess at a community center in Riverside, California. He went postal and took his grudge to City Hall where he shot the mayor, three members of the Council, and two policemen in 1998. 11 other people sustained minor injuries from flying glass. None of the shots were fatal.

In 1994, Donald Trump met Pal Benko at the World Championship Candidates matches at Trump Tower and asked Benko, "Don't you think I could also be a grandmaster if I put in one or two years of chess?" Benko replied, "You need to be born again. I have never known anyone who started with chess after the age of 20 and became a grandmaster." (source: "Pal Benko," *ChessBase Chess News*, Jan 23, 2017)

In 1995, Alexander Ivanov (1956-) was playing in the U.S. chess championship in Modesto, California when he lost his first round on time. After the first round, his wife, Woman International Master (WIM) Esther Epstein (1954-), arrived to play in the Women's championship. She told her husband, "I don't care how you lose, just don't lose on time!" It worked. He won 6 games, lost one (not on time) and tied for 1st place in the U.S. chess championship. Esther finished 3rd place in the women's championship (she won it in 1991 and 1997). She also refrained from telling her husband that a fire had damaged their apartment in Massachusetts until after the tournament was over.

In 1996, Yoko Ono (1933-) donated \$2,500 to enable the Edward R. Murrow High School chess team in Brooklyn, New York, to attend the state and national championships. The school had been national champions in 1992, 1993, and 1994, but had no funds in 1995 and 1996.

Miguel Najdorf (1910-1997) of Argentina was a general agent for the Jackson National Life Insurance Company, which was headquartered in Lansing, Michigan. Najdorf's wife, daughter, parents, and four siblings were all murdered in The Holocaust. (source: *Chess Life & Review*, Sep 1971, p. 491)

In 1997, Donald Trump participated in a principal-for-a-day program at public elementary school P.S. 70 in the Bronx. The school had a 97% poverty rate at the time. Trump stopped by a bake sale the K-5 chess team was hosting to raise money to play in local tournaments and go the national elementary chess championship in Tennessee. P. S. 70 is in the poorest congressional district in the country and straddles the two highest crime precincts in the Bronx. As a joke, he handed a fake \$1 million bill to the parents running it. Trump also asked the African-American principal of the school, Sylvia Simon, why she didn't bring the watermelon. He then gave two \$100 bills to the team, which still needed to raise \$5,000. David MacEnulty, a teacher and the chess team's coach was asked why Trump gave \$200 and then drove away in a limousine. MacEnulty replied, "I have no idea. He was about the most clueless person I've ever seen in that regard. The amazing thing is, he thought he put on a great performance. The man is truly clueless." After a woman read about Trump's behavior in The New York Times, she donated the remaining \$5,000. The woman called the school and said, "I am ashamed to be the same species as this man." The woman was a P.S. 70 alumna living in Florida. The news reports of his visit also prompted others to call up and donate for the chess-playing student. Reporters phoned Trump's campaign spokesperson, Hope Hicks, but she declined to comment on his P.S. 70 visit.

On February 16, 1997, Alvis Vitolins (1946-1997), Latvian International Master, committed suicide by jumping onto the frozen ice of the Gauja river from a railway bridge. He was only 50.

In August, 1998, China hosted the Women's Candidates Final Match between Russian GM Alisa Galliamova and GM Xie Jun. Galliamova refused to play as she objected that the entire match was scheduled to be played in China. However, China was the only country to bid for the match. The match was declared forfeited to Xie Jun.

On May 17, 1999, GM (1990) Lembit Oll (1966-1999) committed suicide by jumping out of a 5th floor window of his apartment in Tallinn at the age of 33. He

suffered from severe depression after his wife divorced him. He is buried at Metsakalmistu Cemetery in Tallinn.

Gisela Kahn Gresser (1906-2000) won the U.S. Women's Chess Championship 9 times from 1944 (a perfect score) to 1969 (at age 63). In 1963, she became the first woman in the U.S. to gain a master title, with a rating of 2211. In 1937, she won the Charles Elliott Norton Fellowship at Harvard for Greek archeological research. She was an expert in hieroglyphics. She went on many safaris, even in her 80s.

In 2000, Laurence Douglas of Puoghkeepsie, New York, stabbed Craig Williams to death over a chess game. Williams had just beaten Douglas in a chess game that had a \$5 wager. Williams took a \$5 bill from Douglas after the game. Douglas then pulled out a knife and stabbed Williams 16 times.

In 2001, Christopher Newton, imprisoned for burglary, murdered his cellmate, Jason Brewer, 27, over a game of chess in a Ohio prison. Brewer would resign his chess game against Newton every time a pawn was lost or the position looked bad. Newton tried to tell him not to give up and play the game out, but Brewer refused. After a month of playing chess and Brewer always resigning early without playing out the game, Newton finally had enough and strangled Brewer. Newton was executed on May 24, 2007 by lethal injection on Ohio. He was the first murderer executed for killing someone over a chess game.

On November 11, 2002, the 35th Chess Olympiad in Bled was won by: 1st-Russia; 2nd-Hungary; 3rd-Armenia. The Chinese women's team took 1st place on tiebreaks over Russia. The 2002 Bled Olympiad was the first to test for drugs through a urine sample. All 802 players passed. Grandmaster Jan Timman of Holland refused to play in protest to the plans of drug testing. World Champion Garry Kasparov participated with the highest Elo rating in the Olympiads. He was rated 2838 at the time and had a performance rating of 2933. A chess ballet opened this Chess Olympiad. The Australian men's and women's teams were sponsored by a pharmaceutical company called Ansell. Part of the deal was to help the company promote their brand of condoms called "checkmate." Two members of the same family played on different teams. International Master Levente Vajda played for Romania while his sister, Woman Grandmaster Szidonia

Vajda, played for Hungary. Robert Gwaze of Zimbabwe became the second person (after Alekhine in 1930) to score 100% out of 9 games.

In January 2003, grandmaster Svetozar Gligoric, age 79, was attacked in his sleep and beaten up by masked burglars in his Belgrade home. The armed robbers broke into his home at 3 am, beat and tied him up, the stole his money and jewelry of his late wife. They also took his chess trophies. Gligoric suffered a black eye.

On October 31, 2004, the 36th Chess Olympiad was held at Mallorca. 1st-Ukraine; 2nd-Russia; 3rd-Armenia. The Chinese women's team took 1st place at the 36th Chess Olympiad, held in Calvia, Spain. The USA took 2nd place. The Chinese men's team took 24th place. Prior to the closing ceremony, FIDE vice-president Zurab Azmaiparashvili was roughed up and arrested as he attempted to ascend the stage to give out the Nona Gaprindashvili Trophy.

Karol Jozef Wojtyla (1920-2005), who became Pope John Paul II, was an avid chess player in his younger days. While acting as a vicar for university students in Krakow, Poland, he frequently played chess with other students.

On March 14, 2005, IM (1977) Simon Webb (1949-2005) was stabbed to death by his son, Dennis, in Sweden after returning home from a chess tournament. His son was arrested after he tried to commit suicide by driving his car into a building.

On July 26, 2006, Jessie Gilbert, a rising British female chess star, fell through a window in her room at the Hotel Labe in Pardubice in the Czech Republic. She won the Women's World Amateur Championship when she was 11. Police believe she may have been sleepwalking; other sources say it was suicide.

Arksdijs Strazdins (1923-2007) of New Britain, Connecticut was a very active chess master. He served with the Latvian Army during World War II and was wounded 3 times. He came to America in 1951. He was President of the New Britain Chess Club (NBCC) for 31 years, where he won the club championship 27 times, from 1953 to 1997. Under his leadership, the NBCC was the largest chess club in Connecticut.

In 2007, \$73,000 was donated on behalf of a chess program and team at an elementary school in Washington, D.C. It turned out that the school business manager who handled the funds was a thief. The business manager ripped off most of the \$73,000 that was supposed to go to the chess program. The person used the school's ATM card more than 100 times to steal from the chess fund. When the pillage was discovered, the school security and the police were immediately notified, but the authorities did little or nothing until an anonymous tipster told the D.C. government's inspector general about the missing money. Before the plundering, the money was used to fund 12 Washington D.C. kids to Nashville to take part in the national scholastic chess tournament. The children of the chess team never competed in another tournament after the theft of their funds.

On January 17, 2008, GM (1958) Robert Fischer (1943-2008) died from degenerative renal failure at the Landspítali Hospital in Reykjavik, Iceland at the age of 64. He had a blocked urinary tract and refused surgery or medications that would have prevented an early death. He is buried at a small Christian cemetery of Laugardalur church, outside the town of Selfoss, Iceland, 30 miles from Reykjavik.

In February 2009, a man killed a friend with a sword after a chess game in Alameda, California. An argument broke out during their game, and the two started wrestling. Joseph Groom retreated to his bedroom and returned with a sword, which he used to stab Kelly Kjersem once. Kjersem later died.

In October 2009, David Christian of Iowa City, Iowa, was arrested after killing his neighbor, Michael Steward, after the two got into a fight over a chess game. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

On January 17, 2010, Dale S. Lyons of Milton, Vermont, died of a heart attack while attending a chess tournament in New Hampshire. He suffered a fatal heart attack between the 3rd and 4th rounds of the Portsmouth Open. He was 60 years old.

In 2011, the French Chess Federation suspended two Grandmasters and one International Master, finding them "guilty of a violation of sporting ethics" for

allegedly cheating during the 2010 Chess Olympiad in Khanty-Mansiysk. They may have been texting each other chess moves on their mobile phones.

Soviet-American WGM Elena Akhmilovskaya's (1957-2012) mother qualified several time for the USSR Women's Championship. Elena divorced her first husband in 1987. Elena married IM John Donaldson in 1988 after they eloped from the Thessaloniki Chess Olympiad. She had a daughter (Donna Van Zandt) from a previous marriage. They later divorced and she married IM Georgi Orlov in 1995. They had a son, Nicholas Orlov.

On July 15, 2012, chess patroness Jacqueline Piatigorsky (1911-2012) died at the age of 100. She died in Brentwood, Los Angeles. She was married to cellist Gregor Piatigorsky. She played in several U.S. Women's Championships. In 1961, she sponsored a chess match between Fischer and Reshevsky. She asked Fischer to rearrange his schedule and play his match game earlier so she could attend the match and her husband's concert later that evening. Fischer refused to play earlier and was forfeited.

In January, 2013, Mike Anders, a chess equipment/book seller and popular area chess player, died when the plane he was piloting crashed into a house in Florida.

On August 8, 2013, Russian Grandmaster Igor Kurnosov, age 28, was hit by a car as he was crossing the street in Chelyabinsk and died at the scene of the accident. He was one of the top 20 GMs in Russia, rated 2680 at his peak.

In January 2014, an Italian man, Saverio Bellante, who had been living in a rented home in Dublin, killed his landlord over a game of chess. He was arrested for the killing after stabbing his landlord, Tom O’Gorman, multiple times. O’Gorman was a minister. Bellante told police that they were fighting over a chess game. Bellante was then asked by O’Gorman to leave the house following an argument over a chess move. Instead, Bellante found a kitchen knife and stabbed O’Gorman, then beat him over the head with a dumbbell. Bellante was also accused of eating the heart of his victim

In May 2014, Grandmaster William Lombardy (1937-2017) was served with eviction papers because he was over \$27,000 behind on his rent. Lombardy just had a double-hip replacement and had asthma. He also complained of broken appliances, a lack of heat, and forced entry into his apartment.

In 2014, two chess players died at the Chess Olympiad in Tromsø, Norway. One was a journalist covering the event at the Tromsø Chess Olympiad. He was asleep and woke up after a fire alarm (false alarm) went off in the hotel and was forced to leave the hotel. He became disoriented, suffered a heart attack, fell into a coma and died. On the final day, Kurt Meier of the Seychelles team died of a heart attack while playing his final round match.

On January 28, 2015, Erich Spielman, age 92, was struck by a car driven by another 92-year-old in England and died. He was a chess player (winner of several club championships in Loughton) and the nephew of the famous chess player Rudolf Spielmann.

In April 2015, Georgian chess champion (2013 and 2014) Gaoz Nigalidze (1989-) was caught cheating and expelled from the Dubai Open. The tournament organizers found that he had stored a mobile phone in a cubicle and covered in toilet paper. The device was found to be logged into Nigalidze's social networking account and had one of his game being analyzed by a smartphone chess app.

In 2016, the United States won this year's Baku Olympiad after edging out Ukraine on tiebreak. Rating-wise Russia was the top seed, but again they failed to win. With three top-10 players on the team (Hikaru Nakamura, Fabiano Caruana and Wesley So), the U.S. team won by scoring 20 match points from 11 rounds and not losing a single match.

On Nov 26, 2016, GM Yuri Eliseev (1996-2016) died in Moscow at the age of 20. He died after falling from a balcony on the 12th floor of his Moscow apartment, apparently while undertaking the extreme sport of parkour. He was trying to reach the balcony of a neighboring apartment. In 2012, he was the world under-16 chess champion. [source: CNN Sports, CNN, Nov 28, 2016]

In 2017, grandmaster Zhang Zhong of Singapore and his wife, Woman International Master Li Roufan, were banned from the Asian Zonals. They refused to sign and ratify the Singapore Federation Players Agreement. The couple had 3 days to sign it, and they refused due to the rush and that the agreement was too complicated, with too many clauses, and they needed more time.

In February 2017, 15-year-old Bona Derakhshani was banned from any Iranian

chess tournaments because he competed against an Israeli chess player at the Tradewise Gibraltar Chess Festival. Iran does not recognize the state of Israel, and forbids its competitors from facing off against Israeli rivals at sporting events, including chess.

In February 2017, the women's U.S. chess champion, Nazi Paikidze, was banned from the World Women's Chess Championship in Iran because she refused to wear a headscarf. Other top women chose not to participate because of the strict code to wear a hijab include world number 1 female player and world women's champion Hou Yifan and 2015 women's world champion, Mariya Muzychuk.

On April 12, 2017, a 12-year-old girl was barred from a chess tournament in Putrajaya, Malaysia over a 'seductive' dress. The tournament was the 2017 Malaysian National Scholastic Chess Championship. It was a pretty knee-length dress. The girl was a district chess champion and was unable to find a suitable outfit for the next round due to the timing of the incident. She was told that she could not wear that dress at 10 pm for the next round that start 9 am next morning. The tournament director told her and her mother that she could only wear slacks and not a dress.

Arthur Bisguier (1929-2017) died on April 5, 2017 at a care facility in Framingham, Massachusetts, at the age of 87. He died of respiratory failure. Until his death, Bisguier was the oldest active grandmaster in the U.S. Bisguier has likely played more people than any other U.S. grandmaster, giving exhibitions at hospitals, colleges, prisons, and other locations around the country. Bisguier was such a generous man that in some of the chess tournaments he won, he returned his cash prizes back to the tournament directors when they lost money on an event.

In 2018, the classical time-control of the World Chess Championship between Magnus Carlsen and Fabiano Caruana ended with 12 consecutive draws. This was the only time in the history of world chess championships that all classical games have been drawn. The event was held in London. Rapid chess was used as a tie-breaker. Carlsen won all three games to retain his title.

In October 2019, international chess player Rajkumar was accidentally electrocuted in his house, which was under construction. He was pulling an iron rod when it

touched a wire carrying 1,100 kilovolts of electric current. Rajkumar was a chess coach and an international arbiter. [source: *Hindustan Times*, Oct 26, 2019]

In 2020, Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders had a telecon, with Sanders broadcasting live from his home office. A chess set was behind Sanders. At the end of the conversation Sanders challenged Biden to a chess game and that they should play a chess match. (source: *Mother Jones*, April 13, 2020)

In 2020, Ukrainian chess champion Stanislav Bogdanovich, along with his girlfriend, Alexandra Vernigora, died of poisoning by laughing gas. They were found dead in their Moscow apartment. They both inhaled nitrous oxide using a balloon. Bogdanovich was a grandmaster from Odessa. [source: "Young Ukraine chess couple 'killed by laughing gas,'" BBC News, March 6, 2020]

On September 4, 2020, GM Dmitry Svetushkin (1980-2020) committed suicide by throwing himself out of the window on the 6th floor of a house in Chisinau, Moldova. He played 10 times for Moldavia in the chess Olympiads. In 2000, he won the Moldovan national chess championship. [source: ChessBase News, Sep 11, 2020]

In 2020, John D. Rockefeller V donated \$3 million to fund U.S. chess events. It was the largest single gift ever presented to the United States Chess Federation.

On Aug 18, 2021, GM Evgeny Sveshnikov (1950-2021) died from complications of COVID-19. Besides being a chess grandmaster, he was a research engineer in the Department of Internal Combustion Engines. He carried a document with him that said he could not get vaccinated due to health issues. He felt that Covid-19 was not very dangerous, but he later contracted the virus and was hospitalized. He was a big believer in copywriting chess games. Covid also killed chessplayers such as Dokhoian, Garcia, Hicks, Kasparova, Lewis, and Panbude.

In 2021, GM Nona Gaprindashvili (1941-) was mentioned in the Netflix series *The Queen's Gambit*. There was a scene in which it was incorrectly stated that she had never played competitive chess against men. Gaprindashvili said that this departure from reality was "dishonoring misinformation." She filed a lawsuit against Netflix for \$5 million for false invasion of privacy and defamation. In September 2022, Netflix settled with Gaprindashvili for an unknown amount.

As of 2022, Oxford had 58 wins, Cambridge had 60 wins, with 22 draws. The first Oxford-Cambridge chess match was in 1873.

In 2022, Webster University in St. Louis offered a degree program in chess. It is the first time a university offers a degree in chess in the United States. (source: *The Globe and Mail*, Sep 11, 2022)

In October 2022, 19-year-old GM Hans Niemann (2003 -) filed a \$100 million defamation lawsuit against World Chess Champion Magnus Carlsen, chess.com, GM Hikaru Nakamura, and others over cheating allegations. Carlsen, Nakamura, and chess.com made cheating allegations against Niemann after Niemann beat Carlsen in a game of chess at the Sinquefeld Cup in St. Louis. Carlsen withdrew from the Cup the next day. Niemann cites claims of slander, libel, unlawful group boycott, tortious interference, and civil conspiracy. He said he has suffered financially, losing chess invitations, and unable to find employment as a chess teacher and coach.

In 2022, world champion Magnus Carlsen was the Classical, Rapid, and Blitz World Champion for the 3rd time.

Leela Chess Zero is a free, open-source, deep neural network-based chess engine that was released on Jan 9, 2018. It starts with no chess knowledge except for the basic rules of the game. It then learns how to play chess by reinforcement learning from repeated self-play. As of December 2022, it has played over 1.5 billion chess games against itself, playing around 1 million games a day. Its Elo rating is over 3900.

